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Issue No 55  
Available from Wednesday,  
September 24, 2008



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# POLICE ON TRAIL OF TRAIN THUGS

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ISSN 1753-1195



## DO YOU KNOW THESE TEENAGE THIEVES?



**CALL 0800 405040 NOW**

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A TRIO of teenage train robbers are being hunted by police after stealing cash, jewellery and mobile phones from terrified commuters during a seven-month crime spree.

The gang – captured in this CCTV image – are wanted by British Transport Police in connection with a “series of robberies” in north Kent, carried out predominantly between London and Medway.

BTP robbery squad Detective Constable Denis Stonestreet said the trio mainly targeted young men in attacks stretching back to February.

He said: “We have been carrying out an ongoing investigation and believe this group may be involved in several robberies against passengers.”

“These have occurred in the mornings and the evenings, and have involved passengers who had money, jewellery and other valuables stolen.”

“We’ve been conducting enquiries and hope that by releasing CCTV images members of the public may be able to assist us in this investigation.”

The image of the gang was taken at Charing Cross station in March, shortly before they pounced on a 24-year-old man travelling to Rochester. A BTP spokesman said this formed their clearest picture of the menacing trio.

DC Stonestreet added: “The first youth is described as black, of medium build and 6ft tall. He was wearing a black beanie, red and black jacket and black jeans.”

“The second was white, of medium build and 5ft 11 inches tall, he was wearing a dark coloured sports top, jeans and a baseball cap.”

“The third is white, 5ft 11 inches tall, medium build with short brown hair. He was wearing a grey and white hooded top and blue jeans. All are believed to be in their late teens to early 20s.”

Anyone who can assist is asked to call 0800 405040 or 0207 3915275.

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**yourkenttv.co.uk**  
**TOP TV CLIPS**



**1** Canterbury Festival organisers reveal how cathedral will host new drama. See the leisure channel @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



**2** In addition to all the local news, catch up with the national headlines too. See the news channel @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



**3** Julie Maddocks checks out Extreme Medway at Capstone Country Park. See the leisure channel @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

**SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT**

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# X Factor TV flops have last laugh



**SIMON SAYS:** Walderwood haven't taken X Factor judge Cowell's harsh comments to heart

A BOY band described as "absolutely useless" by X Factor judge Simon Cowell played their first gig at the weekend.

Walderwood – so called because the group's members all live in the Walderslade or Lordswood areas of Chatham – appeared on the popular ITV show two weeks ago.

And despite being ridiculed by Cowell and fellow judges Louis Walsh, Cheryl Cole and Dannii Minogue, the band say they are enjoying the five minutes of fame their humiliation has earned them.

Adam Davies, 20, said: "We're not bothered that they didn't like us because we only went along for a bit of fun."

"We didn't expect to get as far as we did, so it wasn't exactly a huge shock. You get some people who go on the show who are terrible but still think they've got a good chance of getting through, but we didn't."

"We obviously weren't very good." Adam's fellow band members are Kye Homewood, Joe Amirasaleh, Craig Stace, all aged 20, and Nathan Scott, 21. Millions tuned in on Saturday, September 13, and watched between their fingers as Walderwood murdered the Backstreet Boys hit Quite Playing Games (With My Heart). They only managed to sing a few

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

seconds before Cowell interrupted them with the line: "This is absolutely useless."

Nathan responded by saying the band had been "giving it serious outside", to which Cowell replied: "Well you haven't been giving it in here."

Nathan said: "Yeah, sorry about that," before the boys left the room.

As they walked out, Cowell said to his fellow judges: "Luckily nothing is going to be worse than that."

According to Adam, Cowell probably had a feeling the boys were not taking things seriously the moment they entered the audition.

He said: "Simon asked us if we really wanted to be there because apparently it looked like we were all trying not to laugh."

"But we gave it a go anyway. It was daunting standing in front of one of the most powerful men on television – that's why most of us were looking at the floor."

However, Adam said he and his friends had taken nothing to heart.

He said: "It was really funny watching the show. I received 15 texts and five phone calls almost as soon as we appeared. We've been recognised by quite a few people, too. They said we were rubbish, but fair play for having the guts to go on."

Walderwood's gig at the Zebra Bar, Maidstone, was organised by radio station Invicta FM.

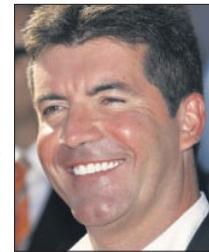


Photo: Peter Dazeley/Redferns

**POP SVENGALI:** Simon Cowell

## Poetry please, John

COMIC poet John Hegley will perform for Medway pupils at a free workshop next month.

Hegley, whose credits include the Edinburgh, Glastonbury and Paramount Comedy festivals, will take to the stage at the University for the Creative Arts at Rochester on Tuesday, October 21.

Youngsters from across Medway will be treated to an hour-long performance followed by a poetry workshop.

UCA's Ruth Westbury said: "We are very excited and hope this fantastic opportunity helps inspire the next generation of poets."

## Railway steams ahead

A STEAM and diesel railway at Chatham Historic Dockyard has been given a £175,000 grant.

The cash will be used to improve access to the track and develop a railway engineering workshop.

The total cost of the project is £500,000, with other funds being donated by the Government and the Wolfson Foundation.

The Royal Engineers Museum, in Brompton, was also given £75,000 for a museum, library and archive redevelopment project.

## Thousands cop a look

MORE than 5,000 people spent time behind bars on Sunday as Medway police opened their new headquarters to the public.

The open day included tours of the Gillingham station and visits from the marine unit, police dogs and motorcycle team.

Ch Supt Steve Corbishley said: "We are proud of our modern police station and it was good to have the opportunity to show it off."

All money raised on the day will be donated to Macmillan's cancer care unit appeal.

## Rush-hour collision

A ROCHESTER road was closed during rush hour last Tuesday evening after a crash left a van teetering over a grass verge.

Maidstone Road was closed northbound at 4pm after the van was involved in a collision with a 4x4 near the Comet superstore.

Paramedics treated both drivers for minor injuries. The vehicles were removed at 7pm, with the road reopening soon after.

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# Nursery's new home is a real act of kindness

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A CHILDREN'S nursery group will move into their state-of-the-art new premises on Monday thanks to a community spirit-inspired TV show.

Woodlands Special Needs Nursery had been homeless since last winter, when its original building in Woodlands Road, Gillingham, was rendered unusable by bad weather.

Since March the pre-school nursery has been temporarily located at Woodlands School but was in desperate need of a long-term solution.

The group's plight was brought to the attention of Sky1's entertainment special Noel's HQ, which worked alongside the Friends of Woodlands and scores of hard-working volunteers to find a new permanent home.

As part of the TV show Aussie artist Rolf Harris and former children's TV presenter Konnie Huq oversaw the renovation of an old doctor's surgery in Mierscourt Road, Rainham, transforming the building into a child-friendly environment.

Rolf and Konnie presented live from the site on Sunday September 14, giving updates to the show's studio-bound host Noel Edmonds as carpenters, decorators, floorers and gardeners worked around-the-clock to complete the whirlwind makeover.

Kind donations of toys and sensory equipment were then brought in to fill the new nursery building.

Nursery manager Sharon Gray said she was overwhelmed by the volunteers' generosity.

She said: "We're thrilled to have such a brilliant new space for the children."

"It's really important for them because it means they'll have the right amount of space



THRILLED: Konnie Huq, Kate Taylor, Rolf Harris and Sharon Gray at the new Woodlands Nursery

with the right amount of resources to enhance their development.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped out, in particular the Friends of Woodlands – the parents' support group – without which this wouldn't have been possible."

"I'd also like to thank Mr Fiddaman at Woodlands Primary School for giving us space

at the school for the past six months."

Woodlands Special Needs Nursery caters for children with learning disabilities aged between 18 months and five years.

Noel's HQ showed people demonstrating acts of kindness designed to benefit whole communities.

• To find out more see [www.sky1.sky.com/noelshq](http://www.sky1.sky.com/noelshq)

## Pauline's rage after police said she looked like a man...

A WOMAN has hit out at police after receiving a letter from traffic cops saying she looked like a man.

Supermarket worker Pauline Smynnott, 59, fell foul of the law earlier this year when she was caught speeding and promptly admitted the offence.

The Gillingham driver expected a £60 fine and three penalty points for doing 52mph in a 40mph zone.

But Kent police wrote to Pauline's partner Roy Watkins, 65, who owns the car, with further questions.

Their letter said: "From the copy of the photograph it appears the driver was a male."

"I have therefore enclosed a further set of forms and would ask you to complete them again with the name of the driver."

Furious Roy told a national newspaper: "I am fuming and Pauline is very upset – any woman would be if they were told they look like a man. I want compensation for the misery and hurt this has caused."

A Kent police spokesman said: "We are working with the couple to resolve this matter."

## Proposed Olympic training centre put in administration

■ BY NICK AMES

BUCKMORE Park, which had been cited as a potential training camp for the 2012 London Olympics, has gone into receivership.

It has been shut to the public for five years – but Medway Scouts groups still use a part of it for camping activities.

The facility includes a climbing wall, badminton court and swimming pool, and had been earmarked for training national squads in the run-up to the games in four years time.

But financial difficulties have resulted in Lloyds TSB calling in business administrators KPMG to sort out the finances of the park's owners Avondale South East.

A KPMG spokeswoman said: "Administrators are in the process of sorting things out so the bank can be repaid."

However, the scouting groups say they will continue to use part of the

260 acre site.

Buckmore Park Kart Circuit, which remains popular, is a tenant of the centre and its owners say they are monitoring events.

The site was one of a number of places across the county which has been looked into by the British Olympic Committee as a potential venue for pre-games training to take place.

It is situated close to the M2 and near to the Ebbsfleet International station which will have a rail link to the site of the games.



SCOUT CAMP: Buckmore Park has gone in to receivership

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THE Shadow Secretary of State for Sport met with Medway's Olympic trampolining hopefuls during a visit to the towns.

Conservative MP Jeremy Hunt spoke to Gary Springs, who represented GB at the 2004 Athens Games, and fellow Team GB star Jason Plowman at their training camp at the Jumper's Rebound Centre in Gillingham on Thursday.

Mr Hunt said he was thoroughly impressed by both the promising athletes' dedication and the plans to transform the entire Black Lion Leisure Centre site into the multi-million-pound Medway Park Olympics Development.

He said: "My visit been an eye-opener. The Jumper's Rebound Centre is a very professional set-up and I'm delighted they have secured £11 million investment to revamp the whole sport centre here.

"What's most inspiring though is just the attitude of the young people, such as Jason Plowman and Gary Springs, two of the great hopes for London 2012.

"Their concentration and determination levels will be an inspiration to all the young people who know them and all those who know their stories."

To view the clip search 'Jumpers'.

# Readers celebrate milestone with us **Yourpapers are 1**

**WE ARE ONE!** And to celebrate your favourite midweek paper reaching its first birthday, we marked the anniversary in style.

It was last September when KOS Media – the company behind the multi-award-winning Kent on Sunday and its sister paper the Saturday Observer – launched nine midweek titles across the county.

The YourLocal series covers Maidstone, Medway, Thanet, Ashford, Canterbury, Shepway, Dover and Swale and each comes complete with its own dedicated website.

And it is thanks to YOU – our readers and advertisers – that we have been a success; for which every one of us are extremely grateful.

Supermarkets were the major venues for the celebrations, as readers joined KOS Media staff – including the roadrunners who hand out the newspapers – for a slice of cake amidst the commemorative balloons.

This year has seen the series establish a major foothold in the county's highly competitive newspaper market with your local paper becoming a part of readers' lives. Each paper delivers a weekly dose of the best news, sport and leisure – all for free – to create a winning blend.

## Roadrunners

Our roadrunners have become an established sight in town and city centres across Kent, handing the papers out. Meanwhile, newsagents, garages and other local stores continue to report copies been snapped up just minutes after hitting the shelves.

KOS Media's distribution manager Barbara Coker has the task of co-ordinating the distribution of the 120,000 issues of the nine papers.

She said: "We all had a very good reason to celebrate. Readers and advertisers all joined in and had the chance to talk to those who give out the papers and get to know them."

"In the past 12 months the roadrunners have become an established part of the high street scene and a very welcome one."

Readers have become so accustomed to the sight of the representatives of our papers they have started to inform them of upcoming events and news stories they feel should be covered.

The roadrunners are now a source for getting the news in – rather than just putting it out.

Mrs Coker added: "It's great that we have established such a rapport with the reading public. Feedback is the most important thing for a local paper so that it can truly become the voice of the community and reflects the concerns of residents in any particular town."

"It is the intention of our local papers to do just that – to reflect what is going on



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Readers and roadrunners gathered at distribution points across the county to celebrate the first birthday of all the Yourpaper editions

in the towns and villages across the county and give people a voice when they need one.

"Truly local news is the lifeblood of a community and gives everyone the chance to have their say and be fully aware of the issues which affect their everyday lives."

- Thank you to all our readers and especially our advertisers for their support throughout the year and in the future. If you have a story you would like featured in our pages, or want to comment on our papers, call the newsdesk on 01303 817200.



## VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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**YOUR LOCAL TV ONLINE**



## And our broadband TV website is a year old too

WHY not relive the launch of our favourite papers – on the website which also celebrates its first birthday this month?

In addition to the nine midweek titles, last September saw the unveiling of our sister website – our broadband TV site [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk).

The site has thousands of video clips contributed from readers, our team of reporters and presenters plus money off vouchers and online offers from our advertisers.

Never visited? Well don't be afraid. It's easy to navigate around and within

seconds of logging on you can be searching for content in your area.

To view the clip highlighted here, simply go to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk) and enter 'papers' in the search box. Then scroll down the list until you find the clip.

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VISIT: Karen Millen has just returned from a visit to the HOPEHIV project she helped set up in South Africa

# Designer fashions a new hope for women with HIV

## EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

FASHION designer Karen Millen is helping HIV sufferers living in slums in South Africa – by teaching them the skills to follow in her footsteps.

The multi-millionaire businesswoman, from Wateringbury, was approached by the charity HOPEHIV two years ago for support.

She turned to former mentor Sheelagh Wright, her tutor at the University for Creative Arts in Rochester, to work with her to create a fashion-based project for the charity.

They designed a year-long course to be run in Pietermaritzburg, the capital city of the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa, which aims to provide poverty-stricken young HIV sufferers with fashion design and technical skills to get good jobs.

After visiting the area, the two women chose a building owned by Project Gateway, a charity encouraging self-sufficiency, to base their fashion school at.

This run-down building, previously a prison that held Mahatma Gandhi, was refurbished into a modern, brightly-lit fashion studio.

The first 22 students of the Gateway School of Fashion were enrolled in January and both Ms Millen and Mrs Wright have just returned from a five-day trip to check on

the standards of the first year of the course. Mrs Wright, who has worked at UCA's Rochester campus for 33 years, said: "After Karen left UCA we had always remained in touch and two years ago she rang me to say that HOPEHIV had contacted her about getting involved in a project."

"We went to various meetings, and then to South Africa to have a look at the community and choose our location."

The lecturer added: "The organisers assumed we were doing something similar to home industries where women teach locals sewing, so when they visited us and saw what we were doing, we blew their minds."

"The curriculum I have designed covers everything from sewing, pattern cutting and screen printing."

"The course is really different to anything here as we have to combine a three year course into one."

"There are four terms in the year and we have recently completed our third. Karen and I went out there last week to assess the work."

After the review nine of the 22 students will go forward to other projects.

Ms Millen OBE said: "I'm totally overcome by the passion and the latent talent of the first intake of students and it would be a dream-come-true if one of the Project Gateway pioneers developed into an international designer."

The designer opened her first clothes shop in Maidstone in the early 80s, then built up her own chain of 150 Karen Millen stores, which she sold for £120 million in 2004.

• For more information on the Gateway Fashion School project visit [www.ucreative.ac.uk/fashionafrica](http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/fashionafrica).

## Extremely good fun for all on sports day

THOUSANDS of youngsters tried quad biking, paintballing and snowboarding during the second annual Extreme Medway event.

The fun-filled day gave children the chance to take on a range of extreme sports and activities in the surrounds of Capstone Country Park.

A Medway council spokesman said: "Extreme Medway aims to encourage young children to come out and try new sport to see if they like it. If they do then hopefully we'll have given them the encouragement to take it up further."

Search 'extreme'.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



yourmedway

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

## New facilities will unlock our waterways to visitors

THE newly-renovated Allington Lock was officially opened by Jonathan Shaw MP after more than ten years of work.

The complete overhaul of the River Medway lock began in the late 90s, with the Environment Agency finishing the final stages last week.

A patrol boat took a small party including the Chatham and Aylesford MP, who is parliamentary under secretary of state in charge of waterways, from East Farleigh to Allington for a tour of the renovated lock, before Mr Shaw cut the ribbon, on Friday.

The MP said: "It's great to see these superb improvements which have given Allington Lock a new lease of life."

"Our waterways are enjoying a renaissance, and this project is good news for users of the Medway and will attract many more people. I congratulate everyone involved."

The work cost £970,000 and means visiting boaters are now offered waste disposal, shower facilities, a new five-metre-wide slipway, safer moorings, canoe access and toilets, as well as important bank stabilisation works.

## Hospital bosses say thank you to devoted volunteers

DEVOTED hospital volunteers were honoured by NHS trust chiefs at an awards ceremony.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust bosses paid tribute to 165 long-serving volunteers, handing out certificates in recognition of five, ten or 15 years service.

Voluntary services manager Antoinette Stewart said: "It's great to be able to recognise volunteers' contribution because they have such a massive impact on the hospital."

To find out more about volunteering visit [www.medwaynhs.uk](http://www.medwaynhs.uk).

## Chief praises efforts of all who fought tunnel blaze

MEDWAY firefighters have been praised for their role in dealing with the Channel Tunnel fire.

Crews from Chatham, Strood, Medway and Hoo stations were involved in bringing the huge blaze under control.

The fire started on a train travelling from England to France at 3pm on September 11.

More than 100 firefighters from 38 districts were drafted in to tackle the blaze, which burned for more than 21 hours.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's chief fire officer Bill Feeley said he would be writing to each firefighter to thank them.

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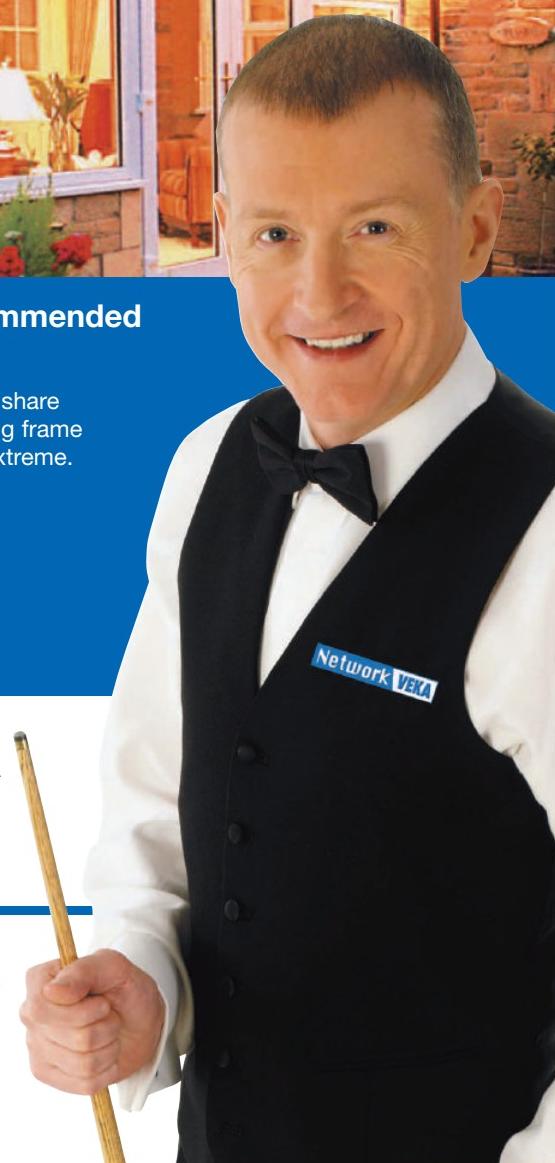


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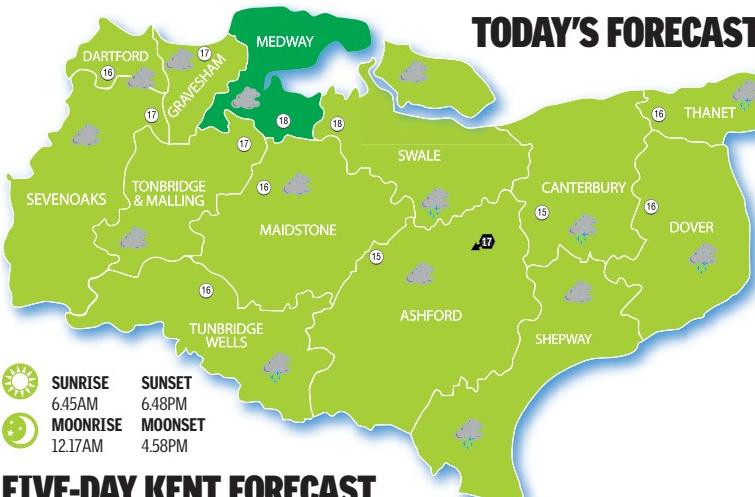
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## TODAY'S FORECAST



## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

<b>Chatham</b>	Saturday	9:55am	4.9m
	Sunday	11:12am	5.3m
<b>Dover</b>	Saturday	8:51am	5.6m
	Sunday	9:53am	6.0m
<b>Dungeness</b>	Saturday	8:16am	6.0m
	Sunday	9:33am	6.5m
<b>Ramsgate</b>	Saturday	9:21am	4.3m
	Sunday	10:23am	4.6m
<b>Sheerness</b>	Saturday	9:43am	4.8m
	Sunday	11:00am	5.1m
<b>Whitstable</b>	Saturday	9:56am	4.5m
	Sunday	11:10am	4.9m

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	15°C	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C
Canterbury	16°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Chatham	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Dartford	16°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Dover	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Faversham	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Folkestone	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Gillingham	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Gravesend	16°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Maidstone	16°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Ramsgate	16°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Rochester	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Sevenoaks	14°C	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C
Sittingbourne	15°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	17°C
Tonbridge	15°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C
Tun Wells	15°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	16°C	Madrid	19°C
Athens	20°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	19°C	Paris	18°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	22°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	31°C
Cape Town	22°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	18°C	Tokyo	20°C
Gibraltar	24°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	35°C	Warsaw	11°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	15°C



## Park gates put up in bid to deter vandals

ALLEY gates have been erected in Princes Park in an effort to crackdown on criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

The metal gates have been placed at the alleyway linking Freshwater Road and Coverdale Close, thanks to the hard work of residents and the police-led Partners And Communities Together (PACT) group.

The group raised the alleyway as a PACT priority and worked with councillors, wardens and the youth offenders team to have the gates put in place.

Prince Park police officer, Dave Saunders, said: "We are all so pleased that we have been able to make a positive impact on the community through the PACT process.

"The aim of the group is to establish local residents' priorities and deal with them quickly and effectively.

"I would encourage people to get involved with their local group and help to make a difference."

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## QUESTION & ANSWER

### STEVE THOMAS



**Q&A**

The dance teacher who gives Ceroc classes across Kent – including in Medway and Swale – spoke to James Alexandre about how he first got involved with the growing craze and following the Ashes

**Q** Can you tell us a little about yourself?

**A** I'm 28 and I've been teaching Ceroc for nine years. I live in south-east London, but my job takes me all over Kent.

**Q** What first interested you in Ceroc?

**A** I first got into Ceroc via more unconventional means. I was 17, had just left school and I was in the job centre in Eltham High Street accompanying a friend.

I saw a card asking for a DJ. At the time I was working as a fitness instructor and had been working part-time as a wedding DJ for a few years, so I thought I'd give it a go.

It was Ceroc and the first thing I noticed when I walked in for my interview was what seemed like hundreds of people dancing and enjoying themselves to music that was a more contemporary than I imagined. Ceroc can be danced to all sorts of music, from the big band stuff of the 40's right up to the cutting-edge chart stuff and everything in between.

The atmosphere was electric and I just really wanted to be a part of it. The fact is you don't need to book or bring a partner. You can just turn up on your own or with friends in whatever comfortable clothes you like and you'll be made to feel welcome.

**Q** Do you have a favourite or preferred technique of Ceroc?

**A** The great thing about Ceroc is that there is no set foot patterns. It's a very basic

form of partner dance that really can be learned by anyone.

The fact that it is so simple makes it accessible, but also allows it to be influenced by all sorts of other dances allowing for great musical interpretation. The most important thing to remember though is the leader leads and the follower follows. It's totally unchoreographed, which makes it quite exciting.

**Q** Where is the most unusual or interesting place you have performed?

**A** Nowhere too obscure, but I have taught all over England, in Spain and even Australia during the 2002/3 Ashes series.

I copped quite a lot of flak from the locals for being English while we were losing the series, but a win at the Sydney Cricket Ground soon stopped all that. Last year I taught a few taster classes in a large marquee at the Kent County Show, which was great fun.

**Q** What do you hope you can achieve with your dancing in future?

**A** With programmes like Strictly Come Dancing on TV, dancing in general is undergoing a bit of a renaissance. My goal is to carry that on and get as many people as possible to come along and give it a go.

It really is the most fun and social way there is to stay in shape and learn something new.

It'll also make you look amazing on the dance floor at your cousin's wedding this summer and it really won't take long to learn. In just 45 minutes you can be dancing a few

moves and looking like you've been doing it for years.

**Q** What do you think of the cultural and artistic life of Swale?

**A** I've been visiting Swale since I was very little due to my nan living in Leysdown and I have to say I have noticed massive change in the area. We opened our venue in Sittingbourne a few years ago and I was impressed with the whole area. The St George's Day Festival was a really vibrant and colourful event.

**Q** Where can people see you performing?

**A** I teach at Dance Junction in Rochester on Mondays and Sandyacres Sports Club in Ashford on Tuesdays. There are venues all over Kent though that can be found on our website, www.cerockent.com.

My friend Kara also teaches each Wednesday at The Wyvern Hall, Swallows Leisure Centre, in Sittingbourne and we have a great night there. Like all of our venues it's welcoming, with new people coming along each week.

**Q** What do you like to do when you're not working?

**A** It's not often that I'm not working, but when I'm not I try to spend as much time as possible with my girlfriend Lida, who is also a Ceroc teacher in Tunbridge Wells. I'm also a keen cricketer, so I like to play as much as I can.




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Ice cream king Richard Hill talks about his plan to beat the credit crunch. Search 'Ice cream'



Extreme Medway where kids went paintballing, quad-biking and hovercraft driving. Search 'Extreme'

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

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[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

# Only fools would miss out on this convention

BY ANNA WHITE

FANS of treasured British sitcom Only Fools and Horses will get the chance to meet some of their idols at an event this weekend.

More than 1,500 visitors are expected to flock to the convention at Mote Park Leisure Centre in Maidstone on Sunday to meet stars of the show.

They will also be able to see memorabilia from the multi award-winning show, including the famous three-wheeled van and some of Del Boy's more outlandish outfits.

Enthusiasts can buy rare items from the programme in an auction and will even have the chance to sit in Del Boy's chair and contemplate 'get rich quick' schemes, as the convention features a faithful recreation of the Trotters' flat.

After eleven years of touring the country this is the first time the official fan club's show will head to Kent.

Perry Aghajanoff, president of the Only Fools Appreciation Society, said: "So far the response has been tremendous. Our perfect demographic was the Essex man, as historically Essex is the old East End, but maybe it's now Kent."

"I'm quite excited about it. The show's got an affinity with Kent because the Jolly Boys Outing episode was filmed in Margate. That's most people's favourite episode, so it's like bringing it home."

Among the actors due to appear are Roger Lloyd Pack, who played the loveable dimwit Trigger, and Paul Barber, who played Denzil, the hapless Scouser frequently in trouble through his involvement with Del Boy's ludicrous schemes.

Patrick Murray, better known as Mickey Pearce, Roy Heather who played Nag's Head landlord Sid, and Ben Smith, the last actor to play Del Boy's son Damien, are also due to attend.

According to Mr Aghajanoff, the actors are happy to revisit the past and meet fans,



despite there not having been a new episode for five years.

"In the past they've been signing for nine hours without a break. They're real troopers," he said. "Everyone gets their autograph, though we have a fair use policy. Autographs and photo opportunities are free."

Mr Aghajanoff, 44, has been running the fan club since 1993 and can now boast 10,000 members worldwide.

**TROOPERS:** Many members of the cast will be at the convention signing autographs for eager fans

The club first began for his own amusement but soon grew into a success and became the appreciation society with greater involvement with the show.

"I've been in episodes three times, usually as 'man in pub', he said. "Some of the scenes have all my friends in the background. Sometimes they would say they needed a crowd and I would get 250 people together in a few days. I would be able to say 'there's my milkman or my postman'."

The show came to an end with a Christmas day special in 2003, but its following still lives on and is passed on to the next generation with children as young as five turning up to events dressed as the beloved Del Boy.

The convention starts at 10am and is due to finish at 6pm, however, Mr Aghajanoff says that, from previous experience, the day usually carries on for longer due to the long queues waiting for autographs.

Tickets cost £5 and can be bought online by visiting [www.onlyfools.net](http://www.onlyfools.net). Under tens get free entry.

## Therapy CD aims to help dogs cope on bonfire night

THE RSPCA is appealing to dog owners to start preparing pets for Bonfire Night by using sound therapy to minimise the distress caused by exploding fireworks.

The number of firework related calls received by the RSPCA's national control centre rose to 940 in 2007 – more than double the 456 received in 1999.

In a bid to reduce this number, the RSPCA has endorsed the Sounds Scary CD therapy pack, produced by Sound Therapy 4 Pets.

This can be used to help dogs learn to be less afraid of loud fizzles and bangs in the build up to the traditional Bonfire Night celebrations, with a two-CD pack featuring a wide variety of firework sounds, as well as thunder and gunshots.

Mark Evans, the animal charity's chief vet, said: "Fireworks and other loud noises are a source of great anxiety for many dogs.

### Volume

"This year, the RSPCA's fireworks campaign is encouraging people to help treat and prevent their dogs' fireworks fears using the Sounds Scary CD – a scientifically proven therapy tool.

"We want owners to help their dogs become less afraid of fireworks noises well in advance of the fireworks season, rather than attempting and often failing to provide short term fixes that have no long-term benefit."

The CD works by gradually allowing dogs to be less afraid of loud noises.

It should initially be played at a very low level, so that the dog shows no reaction to the noises.

The volume can then be gradually increased in the months leading up to November 5, until the dog doesn't react to the noises, even when the CD is played at moderate to full volume.

The last stage is to teach the dog to associate the sound of the CD with something he or she finds pleasant and rewarding, such as food or play.



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## Move to widen range of speed camera offences

DRIVERS not wearing seat belts, using mobile phones, or texting could soon be punished after being caught on speed camera.

The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership wants to widen the range of offences it deals with beyond breaking speed limits and jumping red lights.

The controversial proposals will be discussed by a meeting of Kent's Assistant Chief Constables on Tuesday, September 30 after getting the approval of Kent County Council.

Likely testing ground is the Medway towns – but nothing has yet been finalised.

The move comes after the speed camera group received new video equipment which makes identification of drivers easier.

But it would still mean motorists would have to be using a mobile phone when passing the cameras for the proposed new ruling to be enforced.

Similar regulations are currently in operation in Surrey and Hampshire, according to Chris Rogers, project manager for the Kent camera operators.

He said: "While we are doing our job our operators see a number of other offences which they have up to now ignored.

"The idea is that they widen their remit to include such things as seat belts and phones.

"If an operator did witness an offence such as a driver on the phone the idea is that they would note the time and registration of the car on a pad. Back up video would then further strengthen the case.

"But we would have to be very sure, someone might well have their hand up to the side of their head while driving, but maybe they are suffering from toothache.

"Alternatively a motorist's hand may be off the wheel and it may be that they are texting below the level of the dashboard. But they may also be attempting to brush a wasp away.

"So we will have to be very sure an offence has been committed before taking any action."

What punishments will be dished out in the event of the plans coming into force has yet to be decided.

Mr Rogers said: "The final decision is with the police now."



# Flight of mercy

## Invicta star James in air ambulance fund-raising dash

■ BY NICK AMES

INVICTA FM breakfast show presenter James Heming was challenged live on air this week to go head to head with fundraisers from the Kent Air Ambulance – in a competition to see who could raise the most cash.

Monday marked the start of an awareness week organised by the lifesaving helicopter's operators as well as five days of raising cash necessary to keep it airborne.

James said: "They issued a challenge and I responded. It is one of the most important services in the county and assists many people when they are in real danger.

"I was very happy to help."

The Air Ambulance Trust sent out its team in a vehicle and they toured supermarkets – offering to bag up people's shopping in exchange for donations.

Meanwhile James took to the air – courtesy of a helicopter belong to air ambulance supporters aviation company AV8.

He soon arrived at the office of the Kent Children's Information Service in Maidstone where he picked up a donation of £100.

Mark Bentley, Gillingham FC club captain, met him at the teams training ground and handed over an autographed shirt and ball, together with five pairs of match tickets.

Hospital Lane Dental clinic along Blue Bell Hill then signed over a cheque for £250 with Kent Reliance Building Society donating £650. He then dropped in on Dickens World in Chatham, Lydden Hill race track and Herne Bay Golf Club before heading back to the station's studio.

A spokeswoman for the trust said: "The challenge formed the start of an important week for us when it comes to raising money and awareness.

"People will be out all week explaining



RACE AGAINST TIME: (clockwise) James Heming with Gills captain Mark Bentley; collecting £100 from the Kent Children's Information Centre; after picking up a £2,000 cheque from Heron Helicopters at Herne Bay Golf Club and in the helicopter during his whistlestop tour of the county

what we do and asking for help from members of the public.

"The air ambulance is called out on average between three and four times a day – half of these shouts are usually road traffic accidents but we also assist people hurt in the home or in industrial incidents.

"We are online 365 days a year and follow-

ing statistics which showed air ambulances made a difference in only three per cent of incidents we put doctors on board.

"Our own research shows that in 53 percent of the accidents we attend we make a difference – and I personally know of people who would not be alive now where it not for our helicopter."

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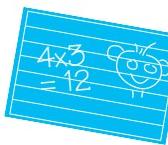
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# yourmedwayschools



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**DIGGERLAND** staff will be offered courses at Mid Kent College after a deal was struck between the two organisations.

The union will see employees at H E Services, the firm behind Diggerland and H E Services Plant Hire Ltd, take up a range of qualifications.

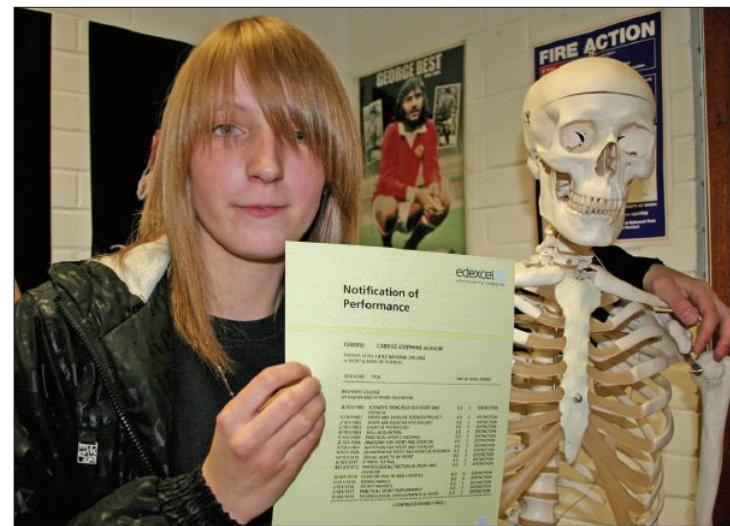
Chairman Hugh Robert Edeleanu said: "I believe that by offering employees the chance to gain a nationally recognised qualification that relates directly to their job, we are securing the futures of both our business, and our staff."

College assessors will design and deliver NVQs in a range of subjects related to employees' day-jobs. The same training will then be rolled out across the country at 12 plant hire depots and the Yorkshire, Durham and Devon Diggerlands.

Mid-Kent College principal Stephen Grix said: "Schemes like Train to Gain and

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**TOP OF THE CLASS:** Candice proudly displays the results which have earned her a place at Loughborough

**DETERMINED** student Candice Jackson has earned a place on one of the most prestigious sports degrees in the country after passing her BTEC National Diploma with distinctions in every unit.

The driven pupil, from Walderslade, was offered a conditional place at Loughborough University, after she gained a straight set of top grades in her first year at Mid Kent College.

However, the offer demanded the 18-year-old repeat this feat in her second year.

While some may have been put off by such a tall order, Candice rose to the challenge, achieving top marks for all 18 units of the demanding National Diploma, including sports psychology, coaching, physiology, biomechanics and a research project in which she investigated the fitness levels of semi-professional footballers in Kent.

She said: "I'm proud to have been accepted onto such a prestigious degree. I felt really passionate about my National Diploma so it was always my aim to achieve a distinction for every unit of the course, even before I had the university place to motivate me."

Sports lecturer Neil Hemstead said he was proud of Candice's achievement, saying: "The BTEC National Diploma is a demanding programme, yet Candice showed she was motivated and driven.

"She kept up with every element of the

course, including both practical and written assignments.

"Without fail she always produced work to a very high standard. To do this consistently over a period of two years showed a clear dedication to the course and her aspirations for the future.

"Being accepted onto a sports degree at Loughborough – arguably the top sports university in the country – is no mean feat.

Candice is the first Mid-Kent College student to have been accepted there and she should be congratulated for such a remarkable achievement. We wish her all the best for what looks to be a promising future."

Candice said she has no definite plans for a future career and is fully focused on continuing her education.

She said: "The experience of learning is much more important to me than my future career, and I'm not motivated by the thought of earning lots of money."

"Once I've completed my first degree I want to gain a masters degree and then a PhD in exercise physiology, so it looks like I'm going to be living on a student budget for a good few years to come."

The ambitious teenager currently volunteers at Swallows Football Club soccer school, where she coaches children aged between four and eight.

### BREAK TIME

## Digging into training opportunity

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The union will see employees at H E Services, the firm behind Diggerland and H E Services Plant Hire Ltd, take up a range of qualifications.

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Mid-Kent College principal Stephen Grix said: "Schemes like Train to Gain and



**EDUCATIONAL:** Mid-Kent College's business development manager Jacqui Brown and Hugh Robert Edeleanu, chairman of H E Services Group shake on the groundbreaking deal

the Skills for Life initiative can help to alleviate the financial strain of training delivery; by working in collaboration with the further education sector, employers can gain access to this funding as well as colleges' training expertise."

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# yourmedwayblogger

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## Tunnel blaze and Stack put us in deep doo-doo

ONCE again a fire in the Tunnel looks set to bring weeks, if not months, of road misery for Kent commuters as foreign truckers heading home use our motorways to park up and wait.

It's all very well billing our once-beautiful county as the 'Gateway to Europe', with all the alleged commercial benefits that brings, but who pays our cops to act as glorified parking wardens for these trucks?

Yep, you've guessed it, you do. And who pays for the motorways we can't use through fuel tax, road tax and fines? Right again, you do.

Don't forget either, as hard-pressed Channel Tunnel operators look to rectify the mess inside the north tunnel after the latest fire (caused, of course, by a wayward truck), that the ferries are forced to soak up the capacity, enjoying their busiest day ever last Wednesday.

But winter's on the way and that means storms. And no matter how efficient our ferries

are, they can't sail in bad weather and that means delays – which means Operation Stack just gets bigger.

Factor in our militant French chums, who are prepared to strike and blockade Calais at the drop of a chapeau, then we have the potential for Operation Stack and the subsequent chaos to close sections of the M20 for weeks at a time.

Kent County Council went into overdrive within hours of the Channel Tunnel fire, reassuring us that a lorry park will be completed some time in the dim and distant, which will take all those nasty, smelly trucks off our roads in times of delay.

Two things with that. Firstly, nobody but nobody actually wants a massive concrete parking lot near their home.

Secondly, and worse than that, as I drove in the opposite direction past miles of parked trucks between Ashford and Maidstone two days after the fire, the sheer numbers brought home how huge any facility would have to be.

And what will it be used for when Stack is not in place? And, of course, who will pay for it?

Obviously the answer is you, no matter how it's dressed up.

Even without problems crossing the Channel, the lay-bys, side roads and industrial estates of Kent are jam-packed every night with sleeping truckers who think it's all right to leave behind their rubbish, including their toilet waste (just ask any of the occupants of units on any of Ashford's industrial estates what greets them every morning).

During Stack, despite our boys in blue ensuring there's a Portaloop every 400 yards (far too far for a lazy driver to walk as he prepares to bed down) truckers do exactly the same along our motorways when they are waiting, except there's just so much more of it.

So remember if you are unlucky enough to break down on the M20 on one of those rare occasions it's actually open for you to use, be careful where you stand along the hard shoulder as you wait for the AA to turn up.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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### LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, Kos Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

\* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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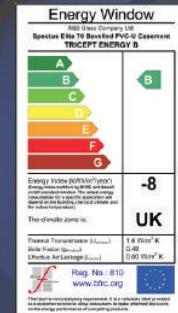
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Winchester or Southampton	1 Oct	<b>£25</b>
Joseph – The Musical	1 Oct & 3 Dec	<b>£54</b>
Hairspray – The Musical	2 Oct	<b>£62</b>
Chartwell	8 Oct	<b>£28</b>
Audley End House & Gardens	9 Oct	<b>Special Offer £23</b>
Ham House & Garden	14 Oct	<b>£28</b>
Surrey Hills Autumn Tints	15 Oct	<b>£22</b>
Cambridge or Duxford Air Museum	23 Oct	<b>£23</b>
London Zoo	25 Oct	<b>£29</b>
Chessington – Halloween – Hocus Pocus	26 Oct	<b>£35</b>
Lille & Euralille	28 Oct	<b>£30</b>
London Museums	29 Oct	<b>£15</b>
Thorpe Park Halloween Fright Night!	31 Oct	<b>£39</b>
Disney on Ice – Finding Nemo	1 Nov	<b>£49</b>
Ghent By Tunnel – Monday Special	3 Nov	<b>£25</b>
Ypres Battlefield Tour & Last Post	7 Nov	<b>£39</b>
Lakeside or Romford Market	8 & 22 Nov	<b>£17</b>
London Showtime – Choice of shows	15 Nov	<b>£47</b>
Bruges By Tunnel – Monday Special	17 Nov	<b>£25</b>
Christmas at Blenheim Palace	22 Nov	<b>£35</b>
Classical Spectacular-Royal Albert Hall & Lunch	23 Nov	<b>£83</b>
Bruges at Christmas – by Tunnel	30 Nov & 7 Dec	<b>£30</b>
Cte Europe Christmas Shopper	2 & 9 Dec	<b>£19</b>
Dickensian Market-Rochester	6 Dec	<b>£17</b>
Romford Market	6 Dec	<b>£17</b>
Lille at Christmas	6 & 7 Dec	<b>£30</b>
Never Castle at Christmas	11 Dec	<b>£26</b>
Arras at Christmas	13 Dec	<b>£30</b>
Ghent at Christmas	14 Dec	<b>£30</b>
Bruges at Christmas by Tunnel	14, 21, 22 Dec	<b>£30</b>
Ostend at Christmas	20 Dec	<b>£30</b>
Ypres at Christmas	20 Dec	<b>£30</b>



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### BOURNEMOUTH TURKEY & TINSEL 1 DEC – 5 DAYS

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## WIN a backpack full of fairy goodies

TO celebrate the release of a brand new film, Tinker Bell on Disney DVD, the UK's real life Pixie Hollow, a secret woodland hideaway deep in the heart of Joyden's Wood is opening for visitors to explore.

Over the weekend of September 27-28 the public can explore the Tinker Bell trails in Pixie Hollow near Dartford.

Set long before Peter Pan and the Lost Boys soared into Neverland, the world's most beloved fairy and her friends were bringing their own special magic to the world and now you can get a sprinkling of fairy dust with this spectacular full-length animated movie filled with magic and adventure, with the release of the DVD on November 10.

We have three backpacks with goodies to giveaway courtesy of Disney and The Woodland Trust.

To win a Tinker Bell backpack filled with fairy goodies and as well as a copy of Tinker Bell on DVD, simply answer the



question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Tinkerbelle comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

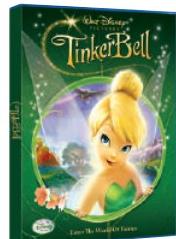
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No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Question: What is the name of the most famous Lost Boy?

- a) David Pan
- b) Peter Pan
- c) George Pan

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### Christmas & New Year

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Aside from Parties, Verve restaurant is open throughout December for Lunch and dinner with Prices from £16.95pp for 3 course dinner, Special family friendly events available on Saturdays and Sundays...  
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# yourletters

## TALK TIME

### BARRY ARCHER

The instructor talks about Medway Karate, the battle to include the martial art in the Olympics and his opinion on the fight of all fights



**Tell us a little about yourself and Medway Karate.**  
I started judo in 1965 and have practised karate since 1970. It was one of the first karate clubs in the towns.

I hold the grade of 4th Dan Wado-style karate. Medway Karate is a group of clubs whose main purpose is to practise the traditional art of karate. We offer membership, licensing and insurance to any bona fide group wishing to join us.

**What does karate offer young people?**  
Discipline, respect and self-defence. We teach children to respect others, not to bully or belittle them. Children learn to be more self-confident.

Karate along with other sports and disciplines, does improve fitness, awareness and confidence. Martial arts in Medway are very popular; it is an excellent sport and form of self-defence.

One of the biggest attractions is the movies. We've had Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan, and now there's Kung Fu Panda.

Kids want to emulate these movies, which helps keeps the attraction going. We are now trying to get karate in the Olympics – that would be a big boost for our sport.

**Who would win in a fight, Bruce Lee or Chuck Norris?**

My money would go on Norris. Lee was incredibly gifted but Norris was also a fighter, a world champion at full-contact karate. He was also bigger and, generally speaking, a good big one will beat a good small one.

Norris walked the walk and put his title – and his chin – on the line many times. Lee was a fantastic martial artist and innovator.

## YOUR LETTERS



### Damaging verdict makes no sense

Does the perverse verdict reached by the Kingsnorth jury mean that I can, with impunity, go to the homes of the six defendants and paint pro-coal messages on their walls?

From their statements since the trial they appear to think that they now have carte blanche to cause whatever damage they like to Kingsnorth.

I just hope the jury at their next trial will show more common sense.

Peter Hayward, Hoo, by email.

### Snakey should be treated with care

I really hope no-one in their infinite 'wisdom', aka stupidity, kills this beautiful animal.

### I'd whack him first, then ask questions

In response to Wendy Holmes' letter about Snakey still being on the loose (Yourmedway, September 10.)



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London zoo gassed all its snakes at the start of World War Two to prevent them escaping and causing a danger to the public.

Mr K J Read, Hoo.



### Pretty faces lift economic gloom

It's good to see the number of lovely girls in Kent, as demonstrated with your queen of the teens story last week.

In these days of doom and gloom, when everyone seems to be complaining about the credit crunch and lack of money, this sort of light-hearted news is always very cheering.

Nigel Hamilton, by email

## COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmedway.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article.

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She calls people "stupid" who would seek to kill it.

I am far, not stupid, but if a snake came into my garden it would be killed first, then I find

out which maniac let it loose.

These snakes are not indigenous and as such are a danger to pets and young children.

Let us not forget that even

### More information needed on girls' jab

I am sure readers have seen the recent reports that the NHS plans to vaccinate girls against the HPV virus to reduce cases of cervical cancer.

I welcome this vaccination programme. Anything that can reduce the number of women who go through the trauma of fighting cancer can only be a good thing.

I do, however, have concerns about the lack of information



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that has been made available to parents.

The local NHS trust has rightly ensured that people are aware of the vaccinations but has failed to answer questions such as: which age groups will be eligible; and when the vaccination programme will be rolled out.

These questions need to be addressed so parents and the girls due to be vaccinated have the information they need before the girls get the jab.

Cllr Cathy Sutton,  
Gillingham North Ward, by email

## An energetic reply to doctorate query

Bill Hyde enquires as to the nature of my doctorate (letters, September 17).

My doctoral thesis is on Austria's nuclear power prohibition law and European Union membership.

For the doctorate, I researched Austrian, European and international law on energy in general and nuclear energy in particular.

Part of my research involved looking at liability for damage caused by nuclear accidents, both in nuclear power stations and during transport of radioactive materials.

I also researched the incidence of accidents in nuclear reactors worldwide. Unlike this country, Austria has a nuclear prohibition law which forbids the country from generating nuclear power or storing nuclear waste or weapons anywhere on Austrian territory.

A wonderful example that the rest of Europe could learn from – we

could have a nuclear-free Europe!

On a personal level I already have solar water heating on my roof and would like to add photovoltaic panels (solar electricity) as soon as I can afford it.

Wind power is more suited to institutions such as schools and hospitals rather than private homes, which is why I am advocating it for our schools to cut their energy bills.

If Mr Hyde wants further information, he can contact the Kent Energy Centre on 0800 358 6669.

Dr Hazel Dawe,  
Kent Green Party, by email

## Awards recognise those serving their community



## Unsung heroes who improve our society

It's good to see the police are honouring those volunteers who make a difference in our community.

Too often people who want to take an interest in what goes on around them are labelled "do-gooders" and branded as "interfering".

This is quite clearly not the case. People who want to help others cannot fail to have a beneficial effect on those around them.

It is time we all recognised this and did our bit to support and honour such unsung heroes.

Penelope Greene, Rochester, by email

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Penelope Greene, Rochester, by email

Antony Worral Thompson, TV chef

## Greed lies at root of credit crunch woes

That the economy is suffering can be put down to one thing and one thing only – greed.

The investment bankers who sold mortgages to people who could never afford them and piled up cash advances which could never be repaid, all in the name of their own bonuses, are the ones we have to blame for this misery.

No wonder hard-pressed ordinary wage-earners have so little confidence in the banking system when rogue traders can cost them their jobs and homes.

Mike Abbot, by email

## Spare a thought for animal welfare

I love food and think it is important that we think about what we eat, where it comes from and how it is produced.

More than 900 million animals are reared for food every year. If we want them to enjoy a higher standard of welfare, we all need to do our bit. September 22-28 is RSPCA Freedom Food Farm Animal Week.

The charity wants us all to think more about where our meat, poultry, fish, eggs and dairy products come from and to persuade us to choose welfare-friendly products, such as those with the Freedom Food logo.

To find out whether you can do more – and how to go about it – visit www.farmanimalfootprint.com.

Antony Worral Thompson, TV chef

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## Bringing together the community

### The Darnley Arms

FOUND in the attractive village of Cobham, near Rochester, The Darnley Arms has some of the best views in the area – taking in orchards, fields and hills.

It is also in a locality rich in history – the nearby church has some of the best horse brasses in the country.

But the pub itself is still one of the major attractions locally, with its food being popular with discerning diners throughout Medway and beyond.

It has been in business for the

past seven years and the privately run family concern has a loyal following among its regulars and is attracting new fans all the time.

Rod Hull was once a frequent visitor to an establishment that prides itself on competitive prices for high quality food – steak and kidney pie with suet pastry is always a favourite when it comes to a satisfying meal.

Meetings of clubs and organisations, visits from walkers and a regular haunt of the local Age Concern group show the pub has

a true community feel and is a focal point of village life when all too many small establishments in out of town areas are falling by the wayside.

The staff all know that hard working staff, combined with a friendly atmosphere, quality of food at the right price and a relaxed ambiance are all things which people will want to return to time and time again.

The pub is open from 11am to 2.30pm and 6pm to 11pm from Monday to Saturday and from noon until 3.30pm on Sundays.



## Feel the vibe at the Village

### Village Hotel

ADDING a modern vibe to the hotel and leisure market is the Village Hotel and Leisure Club, one of the most popular, up-to-date and trendy venues in Maidstone.

Part of a complex which includes 122 bedrooms, a Starbucks, leisure club and pool along with conference facilities, popular eating and drinking venues the Victory Pub and Verve Grill Restaurant still stand out.

Not only is the menu deliciously dotted with modern classics, no-one can fail to appreciate the ambience – spot on when it comes to the discerning diner and drinker.

The Victory is a traditional pub within the hotel and offers a great choice of quality beers alongside a choice of wine and pub food.

Meanwhile Verve Grill has a wide range of fresh, modern, European dishes with regular menu changes to keep both staff and customers on their toes – and waiting for the latest treat.

Then there is the ever popular Sunday Best – a four course carvery lunch which costs just £18.95 – and diners can fill up their plates



with good food as many times as they want.

Chef Paul Rutter displays passion and commitment when it comes to food and has the right balance when it comes to individuality and the team – making for a happy kitchen.

Because of the facilities on offer many people decide to go no further than the village when it comes to a full leisure experience.

David White, deputy general manager, has

16 years experience in the trade throughout London and the south east.

He said: "We are now taking bookings for Christmas – it's a time for giving our customers more at Village Maidstone. There is so much festive fun to enjoy so whether you fancy dancing the night away or the perfect family Christmas dinner we can provide it – and more."

### CHEF RECOMMENDS

#### The Darnley Arms

Start your meal with the simple delight of soup of the day. Then for your main course try the steak and kidney pudding with vegetables and potatoes topped off with helpings of gravy. No meal is complete without apple pie and custard.

#### Spice Court

Start with king prawn butterfly dipped in egg white covered in light spice and bread crumb and deep fried. Then korahi lamb or chicken cooked with onion, green pepper, medium spices and sauce. This is cooked in an iron wok then sprinkled with coriander.

#### The Barn Restaurant

Carpaccio of home cured venison with a horseradish and water cress parfait, oxford blue cheese and roast walnut salad to start. Then rump of lamb with vegetables. White chocolate pannacotta finished with a mango puree finishes off the meal.

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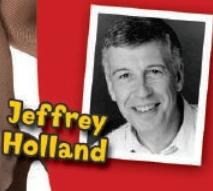
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Keeping his affairs with both secret from Edith causes him plenty of stress, but the French Resistance, led by Michelle, also makes demands on his time and sanity.

Embroiled in continuing failed attempts to return two bumbling British airmen to England, the Resistance constantly calls on René to risk life and limb to help them.

René dreads the moment when Michelle arrives in her beret and raincoat and, leaning close, hisses: "Listen very carefully, I will say ziz only once..."

Aided by the incompetent Englishman Crabtree, disguised as a gendarme and struggling with his terrible French – "Good moaning" – René battles to keep his head, his café and his life as he juggles the demands of his family, friends and the occupying forces.

Say 'bonjour' to the most wanted man in France when 'Allo 'Allo visits the Orchard Theatre next week.

Performances start at 7.45pm daily with 2.30pm matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £14.50, concessions and family/group rates available. To book call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).

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**JANE CONNOLY**  
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## DES O'CONNOR

Friday, October 10  
Woodville Halls, Gravesend



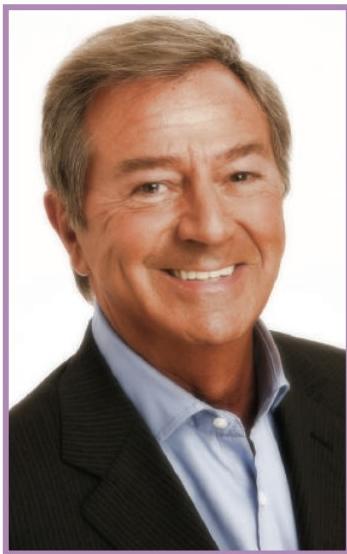
ENTERTAINMENT legend Des O'Connor will be bringing his brand of music and comedy to Kent next month.

The 76-year-old is a veteran of television and live variety, having performed and broadcast all over the world. His American television series was seen by more than 100 million people and shown in more than 40 countries, while his stage credits include appearances at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, the Sydney Opera House, the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto and more than 1,000 performances at the London Palladium.

O'Connor recently announced he would be leaving the Channel 4 quiz Countdown in the autumn, though he has built up one of the most successful television careers of any performer worldwide.

Despite being the butt of jokes at the hands of Morecambe and Wise for years, O'Connor has sold more than 16 million records and will soon be releasing his 36th album.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £23.50/£21.50. To book call the box office on 01474 337774.



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## THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK

Wednesday, October 8  
Orchard Theatre, Dartford



THAILAND'S most exotic export can be enjoyed in the form of The Lady Boys of Bangkok.

Sixteen beautiful show girls with fabulous costumes and immaculate make-up – and each one a man – will transport the audience to the pulsating heart of Bangkok's nightlife for one night only. Devils and Angels is a sensational new show to celebrate the group's 10th UK tour, featuring everything from a

Spice Girls tribute to Broadway showstoppers.

The Lady Boys have produced the top selling show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the last four years, taking audiences on an exhilarating journey from the seductively sexy to the outrageously funny. Acclaimed as a brilliant party night out, the colourful and highly entertaining shows have become a huge hit with people of both sexes. The two-hour show promises an evening of unforgettable entertainment from 'the girls'.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £18/£17. Call the box office on 01322 220000 or see [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).

## CRANFORD COSTUME DISPLAY

Running until December 3  
Dickens World, Chatham



THE gentle world of 19th century rural Cheshire is celebrated in a new exhibition of costumes.

Outfits worn by some of Britain's most respected actors in the BBC series Cranford are now on display at Dickens World. The hugely popular adaptation of Elizabeth Gaskell's novel about life in a country town starred renowned actors such as Dame Judy Dench, Francesca Annis, Eileen Atkins, Imelda Staunton, Greg Wise and Simon Woods. Gaskell was admired by Charles Dickens, who edited and published some of her work. Set in 1842/3, Cranford follows the trivial day-to-day events and bigger dramas in a rural town dominated by women.

More finely detailed costumes will go on display in January from the new adaptation of Dickens' Little Dorrit, due to be aired in November. The exhibition will feature period clothes worn by stars such as Tom Courtenay, Amanda Redman and Robert Hardy.

A special episode of Cranford is due to be broadcast at Christmas 2009. For more information see [www.dickensworld.co.uk](http://www.dickensworld.co.uk).



## MEDWAY LEISURE

### Jim Davidson to return to Central Theatre

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson returns to Chatham.

The irrepressible comic is back on the road and heading for Medway. Often in the firing line for his near-the-knuckle gags, Davidson has delighted audiences for 30 years.

He will be at the Central Theatre at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 2. Tickets cost £19.50/£18. Over under-18s only. To book call 01634 338338 or visit [www.medway.gov.uk/theatres](http://www.medway.gov.uk/theatres).

### It's time to find your baggy trousers for gig

MADNESS will be rife at the Beacon Court Tavern when top tribute act One Step Behind performs.

Formed in 1993, the band has been praised by Madness saxophone player Lee Thompson who has joined them onstage a few times. Find out more at [www.myspace.com/onestepbehind](http://www.myspace.com/onestepbehind).

The gig starts at the pub in Canterbury Street, Gillingham, at 8pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £6. To book or find out more visit [www.beaconcourttaVERN.com](http://www.beaconcourttaVERN.com).

### Talented musician goes acoustic at Oasthouse

LUKE Jackson will be appearing at the Oasthouse in Granary Close, Rainham, this weekend.

He will perform at the acoustic night, a DefZone event, on Saturday. The gig starts at 7.30pm. Find out more about him and his music at [www.myspace.com/lukepauljackson](http://www.myspace.com/lukepauljackson).

Admission costs £3. For more information about the gig call the venue on 07984 002808.

### Make the most of a free publicity opportunity

WOULD you like to see your concert, or event publicised on these pages?

Send full details of your event – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to [jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk) or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best to promote local events.

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RIVER ISLAND  
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price £35



MONSOON  
Military blazer,  
price £60

## MEDWAY SHOPPING

### Feel confidently sexy with scent of a singer

POP singer Christina Aguilera's new fragrance for women is now available.

The scent, which is full of fun and femininity, was inspired by the singer's confidence and sexiness. Inspire is packed with fruity and floral tones including the star's favourite flowers tuberose and gardenia, rounded off with base notes of sensual musk and sandalwood.

The fragrance will be available at The Perfume Shop store at Hempstead Valley from today.

### Check out the latest styles in fashion show

FIND out what fashion trends should be in your wardrobe this autumn/winter at The Mall Chequer's fashion show.

Models will be strutting their stuff throughout the day at the Maidstone shopping centre on October 4 in four separate shows, displaying the latest womenswear, menswear and accessories.

Most of the items modelled will come from stores in the Mall, including Miss Selfridge, TJ Hughes, Phones 4 U, Sports World, BHS and Next.

For more details call 01622 691130.

### Extravaganza is perfect place to plan your day

BRIDES-to-be can make the arrangements for their big day slightly less stressful by visiting the Wedding Extravaganza this weekend.

More than 100 exhibitors will be at Paddock Wood Hop Farm on Sunday showcasing everything you could possibly need on your wedding day.

Even if you just want ideas you can watch the professional fashion shows and get advice from experts at the event from 10.30am until 4pm.

Call 01795 844449 for details.

### Have a night in and you could be styled by Gok

LADIES can treat themselves to a 'Girl's Night In' of shopping and beauty treatments at Dorothy Perkins.

From 4pm tomorrow shoppers at the Bluewater store can indulge in a bit of late night shopping with a glass of Lambrini and a 20 per cent discount.

Complimentary manicures and makeovers will be available, as well as a live DJ in the store.

Customers can also enter a competition with the chance to win a style consultation with celebrity stylist Gok Wan.

### Meet king of the jungle when he signs books

I'M A Celebrity winner Christopher Biggins will be signing his new autobiography at Waterstone's this weekend.

The much-loved TV and theatre actor will be at the Bluewater store at noon on Saturday.

The comedian talks about his childhood and rise to fame in his new book, plus his time in the Australian jungle with fellow celebrities in the ITV show. Just Biggins is published in hardback by John Blake and priced at £18.99.



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Castle View, Forstal Road, Maidstone [www.village-fit.co.uk](http://www.village-fit.co.uk)

### INDIAN

**Spice Court** 01634 850150

Castle View, Sutton Road, Maidstone [www.spicecourt.co.uk](http://www.spicecourt.co.uk)

### ITALIAN

**Antonias Restaurant** 01732 368877

160 High Street, Tonbridge [www.thetonbridge.com/Antonias/](http://www.thetonbridge.com/Antonias/)

### ORIENTAL

**Thai Square Sevenoaks** 01732 462785

22 London Road Sevenoaks [www.thaisq.co.uk](http://www.thaisq.co.uk)

### Pad Thai

15 High Street, West Malling [www.pad-thai.co.uk](http://www.pad-thai.co.uk)

### PUBS

**The Swan** 01622 843212

Broad Street, Sutton Valence, Maidstone

**The Gun & Spit Roast** 01892 722925

**The Wild Duck** 01622 931340

Pagehurst Road, Marden-Thorn [www.thewildduck.co.uk](http://www.thewildduck.co.uk)

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## YOUR TV REVIEW

**MASSIVE**  
BBC Three, 10.30pm, Monday  
**QUESTION TIME**  
BBC One, 10.35pm, Thursday

■ BY TOM BETTS

BBC Three has hardly become a must-watch, national institution since its launch in 2003.

Aside from the now sadly departed and excellent Australian import Summer Heights High, most of the channel's schedule is TV-lite aimed at teenagers and I can count the number of good shows on the fingers of one hand.

But now I may have to get the other hand out as they have a charming winner in Massive.

This new sitcom sees two northern lads living out any discerning New Order fan's dream and setting up a record label of their own using £10,000 left to them in a nan's will.

The dearth of talent in their locality does not bode too well for the newly formed, and fittingly named, Shady Records who sign brazen, huge-bosomed podgy girl duo Here Kitty Kitty.

Putting their faith in the two gobby lasses screams desperation rather than expectation, but it's a clever little plot device, adding a bit of chemistry as well as humour.

Scuttling about in their snot-coloured Austin Allegro, even though this is still set in the present, best friends and fresh-faced label bosses Danny (Ralf Little) and Shay (Carl Rice) have a certain air of a Likely Lad skiving off work with a Gallagher brother, about them.

Among others, episode one held this deadpan gem: "So why did you get out of the music biz then?", Shay asks his ne'er-do-well dad Tony, played



**LAUGH OUT LOUD:** Ralf Little plays record label boss Danny in the BBC Three comedy Massive

by Johnny Vegas.

"I dunno, I think I just preferred stealing," came the honest self-assessment. Catch part three of this excellent little prospect on Monday night, it deserves a bigger audience than it is probably getting.

And if you missed parts one and two, there's always BBC iPlayer for catching up in you're quick.

From the light to the more heavy duty, as perennial news debate show Question Time has returned for a new run.

With Gordon Brown looking like a Prime Minister on his last legs, the economy in freefall faster than Usain Bolt heading for the finish line, it should be a livelier than normal series.

The Beeb has livened it up in recent years with appearances from non politicians like Ian Hislop, David Mitchell and Marcus Brigstocke who usually show that if you're not bowing to the whims of focus groups every ten minutes, a little common sense can go a long way.

You may well enjoy it more than you would have first thought.

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## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

EXPANDING your horizons makes you rely on your intuition more. That's what happens when you don't have experience to guide you. At times you'll make mistakes, but they'll prove to be valuable learning experiences. The most impressive name isn't necessarily the best one.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

### TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20)

YOU'LL be working extra hard this week, attending to the thousands of details involved with a big project. This is one of those times where you have to be picky and demanding. People may not appreciate your exacting standards, but they will ultimately benefit from them.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

### LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR mind will be going a mile a minute. You're starting to reconsider whether the way you've been doing things is best for your current situation. Learning how to operate a machine or use a software programme could save you lots of time and money.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

BREAKING through a creative block could just be a matter of tuning into your subconscious. Pay attention to your dreams, they might give you a valuable clue about your next move. If you think you don't dream, it's just because you're not trained to remember your night visions.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

### VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 22)

MONEY matters will be your fiscal focus this week. It's very possible you're not being paid enough for your services. If your current employers aren't willing to pay what you're worth, look for a job elsewhere. A relative may try to pressure you to fit in with some arbitrary standard.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

GETTING involved with a humanitarian endeavour is a great idea. Recently, you've felt cut off from your fellow man, but this can be quickly changed once you join a charitable organisation. Working on behalf of those who need help will give you a renewed sense of purpose.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOU'RE always interested in advancing your career, but you'll be especially focussed on success and progress this week. Perhaps an authority figure has stepped down, leaving a position open for you. Maybe you'll get wind of a job at an organisation you've always wanted to work for.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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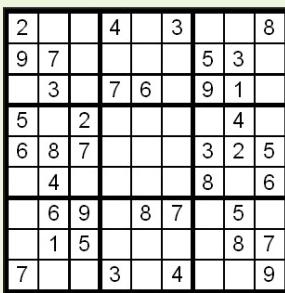
## CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No55

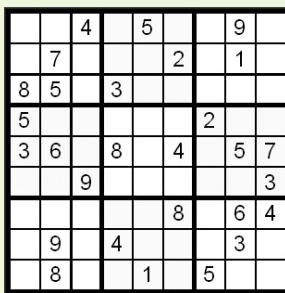
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

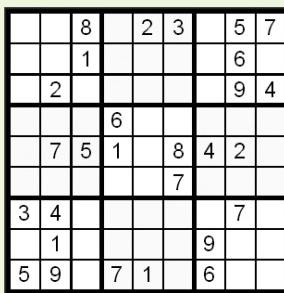
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD

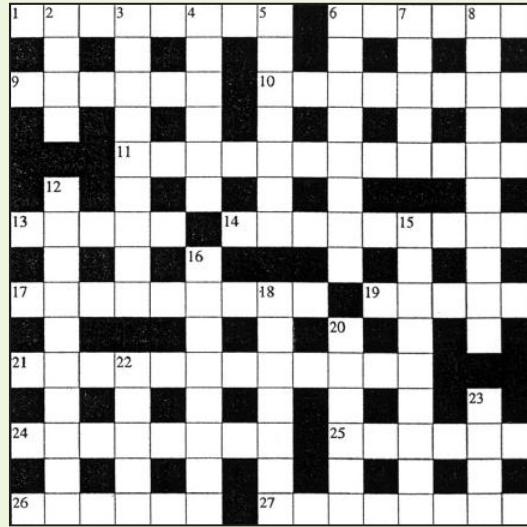


### CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Athlete's rehearsal? (5,3)
- 6 Flexible western dropout (6)
- 9 Guarantee one will give personal assurance (6)
- 10 Teaching pupils individually under guardianship (8)
- 11 Map of Waterloo? (4,2,6)
- 13 Lisa acquainted with inner man (5)
- 14 Clinging to such a garment (9)
- 17 Newspaper about to be put back by dictionary (9)
- 19 Moved along the English (5)
- 21 Give up TV for a toy (4-2-3-3)
- 24 I mark and log off the weight (8)
- 25 Boots I repaired for an instrumentalist (6)
- 26 Means business (6)
- 27 Gesture without words during pantomime (8)
- DOWN
- 2 Split about four on the inside (4)
- 3 Does it fly under water or skid out of control in wet conditions? (9)
- 4 You cannot do this if it hasn't been warm previously (6)
- 5 Clear musical composition on grid (7)
- 6 Notice colour that hasn't dried (3,5)
- 7 Small detached area has tenants (5)
- 8 Compartment offering means of escape for bird first? (10)
- 12 Glance as it moves increasing rapidly (10)
- 15 Harmless beast entering pub promises to pay (9)
- 16 A stringy variety of fish (8)
- 18 Lately brought to light? (7)
- 20 Out in the garden perhaps (6)
- 22 Understood to be familiar (5)
- 23 Look after ducks in northern city (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 School holiday (4-4)
- 6 One owing money (6)
- 9 Motorboat (6)
- 10 Autumn month (8)
- 11 Signalling (12)
- 13 Sap (5)
- 14 Face the east (9)
- 17 Alpine flower (9)
- 19 Glib plausible talk (5)
- 21 Demagogue (6-6)
- 24 Stirred up public interest (8)
- 25 Refashion (6)
- 26 Soft breeze (6)
- 27 Dawn (8)

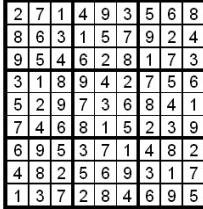
DOWN

- 2 Aside (4)
- 3 Very enthusiastic (9)
- 4 Breathe out (6)
- 5 Director (7)
- 6 Turned aside (8)
- 7 Official documents (5)
- 8 Each other (3,7)
- 12 Rectangular court (10)
- 15 High society (3-6)
- 16 Defector (8)
- 18 Rebuked (7)
- 20 A satyr (anag.) (6)
- 22 Bunch (5)
- 23 Acreage (4)

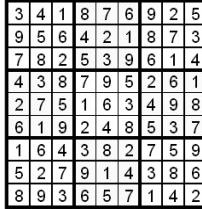
## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No54

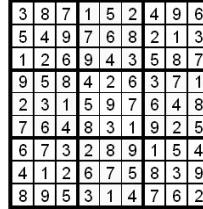
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No54

**ACROSS:** 1 Project 5 Offence 9 Ewer 10 Impression 12 Grow into 13 Boxing 14 Man of letters 17 Point-to-point 21 Puzzle 23 Ransomed 24 Stepsister 25 Teal 26 New York 27 Isotope. **DOWN:** 2 Reward 3 Jurywoman 4 Chignon 6 Freebie 7 Essex 8 Clownery 11 Proof spirit 15 Tit-for-tat 16 Coquette 18 Teenier 19 Innards 20 Revamp 22 Zippy.

### QUICK SOLUTION No54

**ACROSS:** 1 Hartman 6 Detter 9 Launch 10 Droner 11 Telegraphing 13 Jule 14 Deter 15 Eddies 16 Tallyho 17 Eddies 19 Spilt 22 Zephyr 27 Desetter 28 Secord 20 Asphy 22 Blat 23 Detter 27 Quandary 25 Reward 26 Spyby 27 Detter 5 Maneuver 6 Detter 7 Tuning 8 Detter 10 Detter 12 Detter 13 Detter 14 Detter 15 Detter 16 Detter 17 Detter 18 Detter 19 Detter 20 Detter 21 Detter 22 Detter 23 Detter 24 Detter 25 Detter 26 Detter 27 Detter 28 Detter 29 Detter 30 Detter 31 Detter 32 Detter 33 Detter 34 Detter 35 Detter 36 Detter 37 Detter 38 Detter 39 Detter 40 Detter 41 Detter 42 Detter 43 Detter 44 Detter 45 Detter 46 Detter 47 Detter 48 Detter 49 Detter 50 Detter 51 Detter 52 Detter 53 Detter 54 Detter 55 Detter 56 Detter 57 Detter 58 Detter 59 Detter 60 Detter 61 Detter 62 Detter 63 Detter 64 Detter 65 Detter 66 Detter 67 Detter 68 Detter 69 Detter 70 Detter 71 Detter 72 Detter 73 Detter 74 Detter 75 Detter 76 Detter 77 Detter 78 Detter 79 Detter 80 Detter 81 Detter 82 Detter 83 Detter 84 Detter 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**MUSICAL GENIUS:** EmCee Flapjack back on your computer



**OUTDOOR TUNES:** Ambient sounds from Some Peepshow

## The Kent chart



1. Kayley Weller - A Long Drive Home (Deal)
2. Steve Furlong - Close (Birchington)
3. D-Finitive - Space (Tenterden)
4. Kayley Weller - Tonight Is Going To Be Our Night (Deal)
5. Ron Bowdry - Strange Sights On Bluebell Hill (New Eltham)

**TUNE IN:** See gig listings and vote for your favourites at [www.kentunsigned.com](http://www.kentunsigned.com). Feature on our site, [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk) when you upload your songs and clips.

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

ONE of the joys of contemporary popular music is there is something for everyone.

Cowboys and square dancers have country music, students have acid house, teenage girls have bubblegum pop and masochists have Take That.

Of course, the number of sub-genres branching off the mainstream pop, rock, indie, rap categories runs into the thousands, catering for every music fan's particular taste.

With this in mind, I bring you the county's leading self-titled 'instrumental stoner rockers' Sons of Alpha Centauri, guest band on The Ether.

Quite how big the instrumental stoner rock scene extends is anyone's guess, but SOAC are leading the way in Kent.

The Swale-based quartet, named after the brightest star in the constellation Centaurus and the third brightest star visible from Earth, have established themselves as pioneers of progressive, layered riff rock since forming in 2001.

Their focus is on recording complex, musical landscapes, drawing influences from the worlds of classic rock through to avant-garde experimentation.

Despite their epic sound, bassist Nick Hannan said writing was not an overly long-winded process: "Song writing is not difficult at all for us really. When we have exhausted all emotion in a concept thread then the track concludes naturally."

"Revisions are occasionally made to tracks for live performance but often we'll find the writing process is ongoing and non-exhaustive due to the wide spectrum of styles and experimental ideas we incorporate into our sound."

"We don't work within boundaries."

Nick added that the band were much happier in the studio than on the road, keeping the band true to their 'artistic integrity over commercial gain' ethos.

He said: "Writing new material and keeping it real is the way forward for this band. We

# Instrumentally rocking



**RARE:** Sons of Alpha Centauri hardly ever play live, with their upcoming gig being their only one this year

don't play live much at all – it's not a priority – well at least not at the moment anyway.

"Some bands have just four songs and play a hundred shows. We'd rather play four shows and have a hundred songs."

"That way we guarantee each show will be unique and never again replicated."

SOAC fans will be pleased to hear the band is due to play their first gig in 18 months – and their only show this year – in Sheerness in December.

Nick said the next step was to release an album, saying: "We've got a new album coming out soon which is a collaboration with Yawning Man from the United States and it's some pretty groundbreaking material in the instrumental arena."

"That band has influenced a lot of instrumental acts around the world so working with them was pretty inspirational."

• For more details about the band and their new album, visit [www.sonsofalphacentauri.co.uk](http://www.sonsofalphacentauri.co.uk).

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## PROPERTY NEWS

### Improving now easier as Flint relaxes the planning laws

THE Government has relaxed planning permission rules for home-owners looking to build extensions.

Under the changes, people planning to extend for the first time will be able to do so without needing to pay up to £1,000 to be granted specific planning permission.

As a result, some 80,000 of all household applications will be removed from the planning system each year.

However, larger extension will still need permission.

Housing minister Caroline Flint said: "I am scrapping the red tape so it is much easier to convert the loft into that extra bedroom and build on an extension."

"Often people grow out of the family home, but now those who don't really want to move will find it easier to improve instead."

### Want to save £15,000 on stamp duty?

BARRATT, the UK's largest housebuilder is offering incentives to new home-buyers.

Following on from the Government's decision to implement a stamp duty holiday on properties up to a value of £175,000, Barratt is offering to pay the three per cent stamp duty charged on new Barratt homes worth between £250,000 and £300,000.

This initiative could save buyers up to £15,000 on the purchase.

In addition, Barratt will pay the one per cent levy imposed when buyers select a home worth between £175,000 and £250,000.

The incentives offered also include the promise to refund any losses on a home bought between now and Christmas if the buyer sells at a loss in the next three years.

# New home-buyers have a good deal to shout about



**HARD SELL:** Building work on new homes has slowed... but incentives and price cuts mean keys to a brand new house have become increasingly tempting

### Incentives could be key to getting on property ladder

HOME-builder Redrow is the latest to launch incentives to tempt buyers.

While builders across the county have been slashing prices on new homes – you can buy a two-bedroom home brand new in Herne Bay for under £100,000 – Redrow says that with a range of help, advice and incentives available under the badge of 'reassurance', those who do make the move now can find some excellent value in the market.

The credit crunch has hit the business nationwide, but some areas, including Kent, have seen a less dramatic drop in prices due to desirability of residence and a market which was not overstretched to begin with.

But as the market slowed some areas report

■ BY NICK AMES

it's not all bad – one estate agent in Cheriton sold five house in a week, which is better than last year.

Redrow is typical of new home builders anxious to ensure the housing market continues to expand and aggressive marketing will see continued competition for the buyers hard-won mortgage cash.

Neil Fitzsimmons, chief executive of Redrow, said: "It's a time of opportunity for home-buyers to take advantage of attractive deals that are currently available and secure themselves a brand new home that will also save them money on heating and fuel bills.

"Our ability to help with a deposit, stamp duty and other moving costs, to maybe take a customer's existing property in part-exchange, or allowing them to defer up to 25 per cent of the initial purchase price for up to 10 years on selected plots, gives new homes the edge over the secondhand market.

"We are offering confident solutions to any barriers to purchase. At a time of rising energy prices, new homes have been shown to save people up to £556 per annum on fuel costs – and that was before the latest large increase in gas and electricity costs.

"Those savings will go a long way to help increase the amount of money people can have in their pockets or help pay the mortgage," he added.

## TAKE A FASCINATING PEEK AT SOME OF KENT'S MOST QUIRKY AND BIZARRE ARCHITECTURE @propertyforkent.co.uk



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88 High Street, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1AX

Rainham Office Tel: 01634 374953  
11 High Street, Rainham, Kent ME8 7HX

Rochester Office Tel: 01634 812697  
150 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1ER

Strood Office Tel: 01634 715401  
165 High Street, Strood, Kent ME2 4TH



### Tywdall £95,000

2 bedroom first floor maisonette, overlooking green, rear garden, no chain.  
CALL OUR RAINHAM OFFICE 01634 374953



### Cordelia Crescent £105,000

2 bedroom GF flat with rear garden accessed from DG sliding doors in lounge.  
CALL OUR ROCHESTER OFFICE 01634 812697



### Isle Of Grain OIEO £109,995

Two bedroom terrace house, driveway, garage and no forward chain.  
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### Cowper Road OIEO £115,000

3 bedroom mid terrace house, central heating, double glazing, rear garden.  
CALL OUR GILLINGHAM OFFICE 01634 851008



### Richmond Road £127,000

3 bedroom terrace house, 2 receptions, GFCH, no chain, close to town centre.  
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### Dial Close £129,995

2 bedroom end of terrace house, parking to front, DG, CH, lounge, kitchen, bathroom.  
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### Paget Street £130,000

3 bedroom terrace house, no chain, close to town centre, CH, lounge/dining room.  
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### Chatham OIEO £130,000

No Chain, ORP, Double Glazing and Central Heating, Cul De Sac Location.  
CALL OUR CHATHAM OFFICE 01634 843277



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Property Address:  
5 HAVEN CLOSE, ROCHESTER,  
KENT ME1 2LN

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £132,000 on the above property.

Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Mann Countrywide,  
150 High Street, Rochester, Kent  
ME1 1ER. 01634 812697



### Mount Road £134,995

3 Bedrooms, Lounge, Diner, DG, CH, Recently refitted kitchen, DSCR.  
CALL OUR CHATHAM OFFICE 01634 843277



### Association Walk £145,000

3 bedroom terraced house, lounge, kitchen/diner, cloakroom/wc, lawned area.  
CALL OUR ROCHESTER OFFICE 01634 812697



### Rainham OIEO £150,000

3 double bedroom semi detached, 2 receptions, front & rear gardens, no chain.  
CALL OUR RAINHAM OFFICE 01634 374953



### Crow Lane £150,000

2 bedroom GF flat, open plan lounge, kitchen & dining area, allocated parking.  
CALL OUR ROCHESTER OFFICE 01634 812697



### Rochester Street OIEO £164,995

Three bedroom terrace house, central location, central heating, period features, no forward chain.  
CALL OUR CHATHAM OFFICE 01634 843277



### Cuxton Road £199,950

Three bedroom semi detached house, garage, garden and driveway.  
CALL OUR STROOD OFFICE 01634 715401



### Cliffe Woods £219,995

Three bedroom semi detached house, garage, off street parking, no forward chain.  
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### PUBLIC NOTICE



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£129,950

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£250,000

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## MOTORS NEWS



### Kent Skoda dealers get Superb curtain-raiser

SKODA dealers across Kent have staged major launch events for the all-new Superb family/executive model as the Czech brand goes all out to attack the Ford Mondeo sector.

The newcomer, with its distinctive boot cum hatchback feature, also maintains Skoda's reputation for value with prices from £15,490.

Skoda has also upped the spec on its hot Octavia vRS with £1,100 of equipment including 18-inch 'Zenith' alloys, dual zone climate control, jumbo box central armrest with auxiliary MP3 socket, rear electric windows and cruise control.



### Baileys' zero per cent an attractive proposition

CREDIT crunch-busting deals starting from zero per cent finance have been unveiled by Baileys Nissan of Canterbury to cover the Japanese brand's car and 4x4 ranges.

These include the multiple award-winning Qashqai crossover, the X-Trail SUV, the clever Note five-door family model and the funky and economical Micra supermini line-up (from £5,995).

Brian Smith of Baileys Nissan said: "We're inviting customers to come along to the dealership and browse our great range of cars at competitive prices."



### Deft new stroke could be a mini masterpiece

CITROËN calls its new C3 Picasso a 'baby MPV', but there are echoes of off-road styling in here as well as the rural functionality of Citroën classics such as the Dyane and Ami.

In a market now obsessed by more space and mileage for your money though, its chunky style will be rather less important than how well the long and airy cabin lives up to the versatility of Citroën's Picasso MPV sub-branding when it arrives early next year.



**STANDING OUT:** Daihatsu's cut-price mini people carrier the Materia has impressed many observers with its enormous interior and paltry price – starting at £10,995

## Cut-price Daihatsu has us living in the Materia world

BUY a Materia and never be alone, could be Daihatsu's advertising line for its cut-price mini people carrier.

It is one of those motors that people notice and ask about, with styling that blends retro American custom car and front and rear-ended wreck with limo for the party elite in the People's Republic of La-La Land.

Comments are not always flattering, but everyone is impressed by the enormous interior and paltry price – just £10,995 for a single well-equipped model, although new Kent dealer Cheriton Motor House at Folkestone has gone one step further with a funky hot-rod custom kit.

Even without add-ons, the ground-hugging Materia really stands out against relatively dull looking rivals.

In addition to front and side airbags, air con, electric windows all round, six-speaker sound system, alloys, under-boot storage and front fog lamps, the car also comes with Daihatsu's five-year/unlimited miles warranty.

There is the further bonus of a sliding/reclining rear seat, allowing the Materia to offer limo-style rear legroom or maximum boot

### ROAD TEST DAIHATSU MATERIA

■ BY STEVE LOADER

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

space as required, while reclining is not only good for adult passengers on long journeys but better for fitting child seats.

Pushing the rear seats right back and then reclining the front ones creates a decent bed settee too. Headroom and cabin storage is excellent, but the car's spaciousness – its biggest selling point – loses impact through a universally black interior.

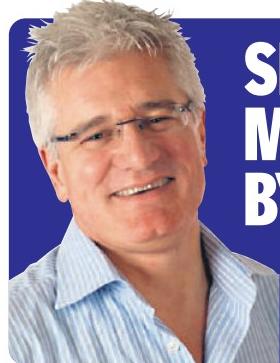
A short overhang/long wheelbase chassis gives the Materia a decent ride and grip though it does wallow a bit on the bends when laden.

Mind you, the five-speed manual shift – a four-speed auto is also offered – is a bit too warty for spirited driving, while the 102bhp 1.5-litre petrol engine is willing, but lets you know about it under acceleration although motorway cruising is acceptable.

The unit's 169g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions also places the car in a relatively high road tax banding costing £170/year.

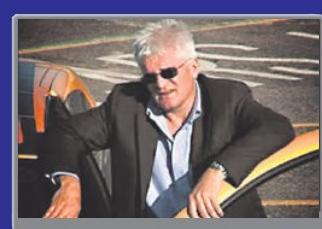
The centre-mounted speedo and tiny indicator repeaters paired with a feeble audible warning do not make the driver's job easy either, but you cannot ignore the Materia's value, space or sense of fun.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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## USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

### NISSAN MICRA



SUPERMINI design has become formulaic in recent years, so Nissan gains lots of credit for daring to be different with the Micra. It's an eye-catcher inside and out and facelifts have maintained its cheeky appeal. Engine options are impressive throughout the range, including some excellent Renault-sourced diesels. The Sunderland-built three and five-door line-up also includes a coupé convertible and lively and trendy Sport range with a flagship, the 160SR, to rival cars like the Mini One and Ford Zetec S.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### MADE IN BRITAIN

WE may have lost our last major UK-owned car maker with the collapse of MG Rover, but the UK is still a major car manufacturing country. Admittedly, most cars produced here now have a Japanese badge on the front, but they generate many jobs within the car plants themselves and across a whole industry sector of homegrown suppliers. The products are also of high quality and good value and tend to soldier on well on the used market – check out this diverse yet reliable trio of leading Anglo-Japanese candidates.

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### HONDA CR-V



HONDA's refined sports utility vehicle (SUV) enjoyed a boost when the second generation line-up gained a much needed diesel option. This helped make it more popular even though it is not quite as stylish as its predecessor. It was also more spacious and capable, drove well, and was produced to a high standard at Honda's highly efficient Swindon plant. It was replaced recently by a smarter and less utilitarian CR-V that Honda hopes will avoid the environmental backlash against 4x4s.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### TOYOTA AVENSIS



TOYOTA has built three generations of its family car model at a plant near Derby, but the latest Avensis – following the first generation Avensis and dull Carina E – is more than just an ultra-reliable company hack with some good diesel options. There is much Lexus luxury engineering underneath, allowing the Avensis to attack the market share of the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Vectra. The estate drives well and carries a decent load too, though unadventurous styling keeps Avensis prices affordable.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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You need to have good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and engagement skills, casework skills, and the ability to be creative and innovative. Proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users is a prerequisite.

**For application forms and further information, contact:**  
**KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT.**  
Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351,  
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk.

**Closing date:** Monday 29th September 2008

**Interview date:** Friday 10th October 2008

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.

Charity No: 292824

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Services in  
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We require a Pastoral Support Officer to work with our team in providing pastoral support to ensure high quality learning for all students.

The role will involve

- Running the school inclusion room (an alternative to fixed term exclusion)
- Dealing with parental enquiries through telephone and face-to-face meetings including investigation and mediation.
- Promoting good attendance, attitudes and behaviour at all times
- Assisting with a range of administrative support including support to exclusion, discipline and other student related meetings.

A flexible approach to working and the ability to work as part of a team and under your own initiative are essential. Good communication skills at all levels are essential.

Experience of working with young people in an educational, Youth and Community or similar environment would be an advantage.

We also will be appointing

## TEACHERS OF ENGLISH & HISTORY for January 2009 start

Please submit full CV giving details of previous experience and the name of two referees to the Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk  
Closing date for applications: 2 October 2008

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**Public Notices** 43

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**NJC Points 15-24 (£15,470 - £20,099 - pay award pending)**

**Position on scale according to age and experience**

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Good communication and organisational skills; a conscientious work ethic, and the ability to build and maintain positive relationships, with both staff and pupils, are essential.

## ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Term Time only - 37 hours per week

**NJC Points 7-21 (£12,291 - £18,430 - pay award pending); pro rata to £10,035 - £15,047 for Term Time only**

**Position on scale according to age and experience**

We require, as soon as possible, an enthusiastic technician with an interest in the visual arts to join a successful Art, Design and Technology Department.

The successful candidate will be well organised, able to work on their own initiative and willing to tackle a wide range of practical activities including basic maintenance of equipment, supporting teaching and learning, preparing materials and carrying out risk assessments. An ability to work as part of a team is essential.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure. Please note that this school is a designated non-smoking area.

Fort Pitt is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Please note that Fort Pitt operates a no smoking policy throughout the buildings and site.

If you believe that you have the skills and characteristics necessary for either of these posts then please apply by letter to the P.A. to the Headteacher, enclosing a CV and the names of two referees, by 1st October 2008.

Further details including job descriptions may be accessed from the Fort Pitt website ([www.fortpitt.medway.sch.uk](http://www.fortpitt.medway.sch.uk)).

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Trainee placement on the Graduate Teacher Programme in English.

The successful candidate will receive training from experienced teachers at Northfleet Technology College supplemented by a number of days provided by Canterbury University.

The successful person must have at least 50% of their degree in the subject of English. They need to be organised, self motivated and able to work independently.

**Salary will be £15,113**

This very popular school of 900 boys, awarded specialist status in September 2003, is situated in the 'Thames Gateway' area of Kent, with excellent links to nearby London and the Channel coast.

NTC is an exciting environment to work in, which is committed to the principle of lifelong learning for students and staff. There is a well established ethos of professional development for all our employees.

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our team and if you enjoy working with young people, relish a challenge and feel you have the necessary skills for this post we would like to hear from you.

**Please contact Mrs Gill Taylor, our Initial Teacher Coordinator, for an informal chat about this opportunity and for further details.**

**An application form can be obtained from by telephone**

**01474 533802, fax 01474 536122 or by email**

**taylorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk. Please enclose/attach your CV.**

**Do check our web site: [www.ntc.kent.sch.uk](http://www.ntc.kent.sch.uk).**

**Closing Date is Friday the 17th of October**

**GSE GROUP**

## HYTHE IMPERIAL HOTEL

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

The GSE Group have exciting plans, for restoring and updating the elegant four-star Hythe Imperial Hotel, which boasts Spa, Golf and Conference facilities.

We require an enthusiastic individual with a proven track record within the industry, to sell and develop the Imperial's potential as a leading conference & event venue, leisure break and destination hotel.

The successful candidate will be sales orientated, highly motivated and committed to success. Excellent salary package offered, including company car and performance related bonus scheme.

Please submit your CV to The General Manager, Hythe Imperial Hotel, Princes Parade, Hythe, Kent CT21 6AE or [H6862-GM@accor.com](mailto:H6862-GM@accor.com)

Closing Date: 3rd October 2008.

The GSE Group are an Equal Opportunities Employer

## WINDOW SERVICE ENGINEER

Required by Kent Trade Frames Ltd  
(Sittingbourne)

Applicants should be experienced in the window industry; preferably with a history of installation work (the position may also involve some survey work). This is a full time long term position in a family run company. Salary Negotiable.

Contact 01795 431600

## MULTI SKILLED CARPENTER required (Self Employed)

Must have experience and be able to work alone in a professional manner to high standards.

The applicant must also have own transport and be willing to travel (sometimes required to stay away).

Contact Andy Fuller via email at [andy@bespokedevelopments.co.uk](mailto:andy@bespokedevelopments.co.uk)

## Local Cleaning Company seeks presentable, articulate staff

with previous office cleaning experience for long term relationship. We can promise good rates of pay,

4 wks holidays pa, uniform and full training.

Potential for promotion.

Call us now on 01634 722922

## PLUMBERS/MAINTENANCE ENGINEERS

Experienced plumbers and maintenance engineers required in the Tonbridge, Medway and Maidstone areas.

Earning potential £30k plus.

Please contact:

Kevin Wyley, Pro Plumbing Kent Ltd,  
PO BOX 492, Chatham, Kent, ME5 9XX  
Tel: 01634 682011 • Fax: 01634 682019  
Email: [proplumbkent@aol.com](mailto:proplumbkent@aol.com)

## Turn your passion into £'s

Craft-ED provide a fun and creative way to educate children and need more consultants.

- Work for yourself in your local community supporting children with their education
- Flexible hours, unlimited income, minimum investment
- FREE training

For information phone 01993 892410  
email [info@craft-ed.com](mailto:info@craft-ed.com)

Mid-Kent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

## Learner Advisor

**Full-time/part-time/Job Share position**

**£11,599 - £17,200 pro rata**

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Learner Services team as a Learner Advisor. The successful applicant will work in a front line area supporting existing and prospective learners whilst working with college staff to provide an excellent service. Initial sign-posting to internal and external agencies, good administration and I.T. skills, a flexible approach and the ability to work under pressure are all requisites for this customer focused position.

## Personal Tutor

**(Full-time, Part-time & Fixed-term)**

**£19,736 - £25,441 pro-rata**

We currently have a number of opportunities for full-time and part-time Personal Tutors. As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification. When applying, please state clearly your preferred role.

## Departmental Secretary/Administrator

**Salary: £11,599 to £17,200**

The candidate will be able to demonstrate recent, all round experience and knowledge of administration procedures and have excellent organisational and IT skills. Due to the nature of the role the successful candidate will be required to work independently.



Ref: P0131

## Hourly Paid Facilitators

**Hourly Rate: £8.93 (£9.98 including holiday component)**

We are looking to appoint hourly paid Facilitators to work with individuals/groups of learners on curriculum support programmes devised by the curriculum staff and/or CAST Tutors. A clear empathy for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and good communication skills are essential.

## Technician in Beauty

**£11,599 - £17,200**

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to provide guidance and support to learners and assists with the running of various Clinics. You will be able to demonstrate good organisational and communication skills and relevant experience within the beauty industry would be advantageous.

**Closing date: Wednesday, 8 October 2008**

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



Ref: SE01

**Ref: P0559**

**Ref: P0005**

**Ref: P0108**

## Public Rights of Way Officer (Definitive Map Review)

**£20,061-£29,920 per annum (Salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfilment of required competencies)**

### Maidstone

Kent County Council is seeking to appoint a Public Rights of Way Officer to join the busy Definitive Map Team, based at Maidstone.

With over 6700km of public rights of way, Kent County Council manages the largest network in the country. It also has an excellent national reputation in service delivery, forward thinking and dynamic new initiatives.

You will be responsible for assessing, investigating and promoting applications to add and amend public rights of way in accordance with the relevant legislation. You will be expected to liaise with the public, landowners and solicitors, carry out site inspections/meetings, historical research and attend Public Inquiries and Magistrates Courts when necessary.

The post carries a high-volume workload so you will have an eye for detail and the ability to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. You will also be a team player educated to HND/Degree level or equivalent in a related subject. The post requires a high level of motivation, good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and related countryside access issues along with excellent organisational and communication skills. Ref: ER/08/0114

For more information, please call Laura Wilkins on 01622 221517.

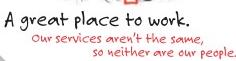
To apply, visit [www.kent.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs) Alternatively, please email [recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk) or call 0845 8247 904.

**Closing date: Midday, 9th October 2008.**

**Interview date: 14th November 2008.**



[www.kent.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.kent.gov.uk/jobs)



A great place to work.  
Our services aren't the same,  
so neither are our people.

Bredlands Lane, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0HD

NOR: 340

Principal: Mr Ian Johnson

Twin Specialisms: Business & Enterprise and Visual, Creative & Performing Arts

## Director of Learning for Mathematics

MPS +TLR - £10,303

Following the promotion of the previous post holder to a senior management position, we will be appointing his permanent replacement from 1st January 2009.

This is an exciting opportunity for an ambitious and talented colleague to join our Team. Building upon the success of the Montgomery School during its final years, Spires had a very good first year. Year 7 numbers have doubled, GCSE results with English and Maths shot up from 18% to 32%, and there is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality.

Maths results last year were the best of the core subjects, testimony to the quality of teaching and organisation of the curriculum. There is, however, real potential for improvement as well as the opportunity to teach at Sixth Form level through our link with the Marlowe Academy.

Potential candidates are encouraged to visit the school as part of the application process.

Please email our Personnel Manager, Marion Wigington, on [m.wigington@spiresacademy.com](mailto:m.wigington@spiresacademy.com) for further details of how to apply.

Closing date: 10.00am on Friday 10th October  
Interviews scheduled for the following week.

<http://www.spriesacademy.com>

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Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your search criteria

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The smart way to find a job in the County



## Hourly Paid Lecturers/Facilitators

### Can you make a difference?

Have you ever considered whether your skills and experience are needed by a Further and Higher Education College? Mid-Kent College is actively seeking to recruit hourly paid Lecturers and Facilitators in the following areas:

#### Lecturers

**Hourly Rate: £19.74 - £32.39 (including holiday component)**

- Civil Engineering
- Domestic Gas Trainer/Assessor
- IT and Business
- Healthcare
- Psychology
- Electrical Installation
- Assessors for Motor Vehicle Body & Paint
- Mechanical Engineering
- Brickwork
- Catering
- Public Services
- Childcare
- Motor Vehicle

#### Facilitators

**Hourly Rate: £9.98 (including holiday component)**

Sessional Facilitators are required to work with and provide assistance to learners and Lecturers. A clear empathy for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and good communication skills are essential.

#### Work Placement Co-ordinator

**Hourly Rate: £9.98 (including holiday component)**

We require an hourly paid Work Placement Co-ordinator to assist with the placing, monitoring and assessing of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in their work placements. For further information please contact the Personnel department on 01634 884511.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer





## DESPATCH PICKER

Successful Ashford Company requires up to four people to join our Despatch Picking team. The role involves selecting and picking plants for customer orders and packing plants ready for transporting.

You will be:  
Working with plants  
Working with people in a team  
Working to deadlines

The successful candidate will be able to work under pressure, work on their own and within a team which has a "can do" attitude. Some knowledge of plants and Latin names will be an advantage as will a fork lift truck ticket. Good physical fitness and good numeracy is also required. Induction training will be given.

Usually 5 days a week Mon-Fri 7.30 to 17.00 but occasionally longer working – the job is not finished till it's done and lorry's loaded. In addition there can be some Saturday [morning] working. We offer a very varied working day, good team spirit and plenty of fresh air as well as good rates of pay and rewards for good performance.

Applications in writing please, in letter, email (shawnp@palmstead.co.uk) or ask for an application form from the office or download one from our web site. For an informal talk speak to Shawn Putland (01233 811307) or Steve Piddock.

**Please respond to this advert by close of business Monday 6th October 2008 or before.**

Palmstead Nurseries, Harville Road, Wye, Ashford Kent TN25 5EU  
[palmstead.co.uk](http://palmstead.co.uk)

## WEST KENT

### Community Support Worker

Based in Rainham, Job Ref: MSF048

**Salary £18,038**

37 hours a week

**West Kent is a high performing housing association providing excellent homes and services across Kent and we are a Sunday Times Best Company and a listed Top 100 small employer.**

In the role of Community Support Worker you will provide floating support to a group of vulnerable clients, who have previously received support from a Community Support Officer and are now ready to withdraw from the service.

Your key role will be to help individuals become independent and make a fresh start.

For this role you will need experience of supporting people in at least one of the following areas: mental health, learning disability, substance misuse, or vulnerable older people.

You must have genuine commitment to make a difference and have a flexible approach. Excellent communication and motivational skills are essential as you will be working closely with a broad range of people.

You will encourage self-sufficiency and independence while at the same time providing clients with the support and guidance they need to get back on their feet. You may also be required to give practical 'hands on' help in life skills in some cases.

You must be well organised, able to work on your own initiative and have a full driving licence and access to a vehicle for business use.

To request an application pack contact Clare Cornwell on 01732 749451 or email [clare.cornwell@wkha.org.uk](mailto:clare.cornwell@wkha.org.uk)

**Closing date: 29 September 2008**  
**Interview date: w/c 6 October 2008**

This post is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.

**West Kent Housing Association aims to provide equality and opportunity for all we house and employ**

**View our current vacancies online at [www.westkent.org](http://www.westkent.org)**



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## Sheppey College



Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

### Lecturer Finance

08/136

7.4 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills

08/73

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Supply Lecturers required in the following areas:

Administration and Office Skills Level 2 or 3

Bookkeeping and Accounting

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

SH/AOS

SH/BKA



### Supply Learning Support required in the following areas:

Leisure & Tourism

Supported Learning

Various hours available, salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum

SH/LS/LT

SH/LS/SL



For an application pack please visit [www.cant-col.ac.uk](http://www.cant-col.ac.uk) or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

**The closing date for the above posts is Monday 29th September 2008 at 12 noon**

### Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



## The Royal School of Military Engineering (Chatham) Instructors

### Salary £28,219 - £30,312

If you are a skilled tradesperson and you want a secure, exciting and challenging career in training you should consider working at the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) as an Instructor. The School currently employs over 100 civilian instructors who are responsible for ensuring that the Royal Engineers are equipped to carry out all the trade duties associated with their role. Although the Royal Engineers are first and foremost soldiers they are also combat engineers and highly skilled tradesmen. If you have ever considered training and are interested in passing on your skills and knowledge to young military personnel we would like to hear from you.

Currently we are looking for a number of people to take up the following posts:

- Electrical Instructors.
- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Instructors
- Heating and Plumbing Instructors
- Fabrication Instructors
- Electrical and Mechanical Draughtsman
- Instructor Fitter - Engines
- Land Surveyors

These are key appointments and the successful candidates will need to demonstrate that they have the practical skills and knowledge of their trade and have the potential to develop into first class instructors. Training will be provided.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk)

Email: [rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk)

Telephone 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine)

Personnel Director Iain Donaldson on 01634 884422

Personnel Officer, Marie Cook on 01634 884736

Closing Date 3 October 2008



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunity employer



The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under-represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.



MIDKent COLLEGE an associate college of the UNIVERSITY OF KENT

South East Health Ltd is a dynamic, growing organisation, commissioned by several Primary Care Trusts in Kent and Sussex to deliver an impressive range of unscheduled care services to a resident population base of around 2.2 million.

In order to meet the needs of patients we require experienced nurses to join the following nursing teams:

## NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Nurses with minor illness/injury experience are required to work alongside our GP workforce at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford for daytime and out-of-hours shifts as part of our A&E Front Ending Project.

We also require experienced minor illness nurses to work within our Out of Hours clinical bases within East Kent including Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey. Nurses will provide assessment and treatment for patients with urgent care needs, supported by PGDs and prescribing skills where appropriate.

## NURSE ADVISORS

Telephone Nurse Advisors are the first point of clinical contact for patients and we are currently recruiting for our Ashford Call Centre. Using clinical knowledge and skills alongside triage protocols you will decide the most appropriate pathway of care for patients and their symptoms.

## STAN (SINGLE TELEPHONE ACCESS NUMBER)

The STAN service has been commissioned by PCT's and is staffed by a team of experienced nurses and skilled support staff. We require nurses to join our team working between 8am and 8pm at our Ashford Call Centre to help plan patient care alongside GP's ensuring appropriate transfers of care for patients.

For an application pack or an informal discussion with the locality manager please contact Caroline Weetch, HR Assistant on 01732 376092 or e-mail caroline.weetch@sehnp.nhs.uk

Closing date for receipt of application: 10th October 2008

South East Health is an equal opportunities employer.



achievement employability experience development

## Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

### Head of Faculty Higher Education

08/112



37 hrs per week, salary starting from £40,821 per annum

### Section Manager – Automotive Engineering

06/70

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

### Section Manager Construction Craft

08/12

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

### Section Manager – Sports, Leisure, Travel & Tourism

08/27



37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

### International Manager

08/111

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

### Co-ordinator of WBL and other Part-time Motor Vehicle programmes including IMI ATA

CO106

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

### Coordinator of IMI and C & G Full-time Automotive Engineering Programmes

08/132



37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

### Lecturer Public Services

07/31

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Health & Social Care

05/39

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum

### Lecturer Health & Social Care

L90

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

07/04

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

08/133

37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave.

### Lecturer Independent Living and Leisure Skills

08/135

9.25 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Independent Living and Leisure Skills

00/33

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Lecturer Performing Arts – Drama

08/100

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

### Supply Lecturers required in the following areas:

#### Sport

S/SPO

#### Computing

S/COM

#### Hairdressing

S/HAIR

#### Drama

S/DRA

#### Dance

S/DAN

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit [www.cant-col.ac.uk](http://www.cant-col.ac.uk) or call the

Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)

quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 29th September 2008 at 12 noon

### Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

## Extraordinary People doing an Extraordinary Job



One of the country's leading providers of education and residential care for vulnerable young people are now recruiting. Due to expansion, our homes near Maidstone, Meopham and Bromley currently have vacancies for:

**Registered Manager** (Salary up to £33,900 plus bonus)

**Deputy Managers** (up to £22,980 plus £27 per sleep in allowance)

**Senior Residential Support Workers** (up to £20,040 plus £27 per sleep in allowance)

**Residential Support Workers** (up to £15,500 plus £27 per sleep in allowance)

**Waking Night Residential Support Workers** (up to £9.88 per hour)

As part of the team of carers, you will work closely with the young people, providing 24 hour intensive care and support within the home.

Ideal applicants will have had experience as a residential childcare practitioner or in education. You will need appropriate qualifications and experience to be considered for the Registered Manager, Deputy Manager and Senior RSW roles.

These positions come with an excellent benefits package and we take pride in the training and career opportunities we offer.

If you feel you have the skills and experience to succeed in any of these roles, please telephone our 24 hour recruitment hotline on 01536 509209 for an application pack or email [sitman@castlehomes.co.uk](mailto:sitman@castlehomes.co.uk). You can also access our recruitment web page on [www.castlecaregroup.co.uk](http://www.castlecaregroup.co.uk)

Closing date for completed applications: 6th October

Interviews will take place during week commencing: 13th October



achievement employability experience development

achievement employability experience development

## Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

### Project Co-ordinator – College Redevelopment

08/117



37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

### Trainer Demonstrator – Sport, Leisure, Travel & Tourism

04/106



18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

### Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care and Land Based

TD13



18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

### Trainer Demonstrator – Maths/Physics

TD17



27.75 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

### Lab Technician (Resource Assistant)

RA18



18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

### Resource Assistant/Work Placement Organiser for Health and Social Care

RA17



18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

### Resource Assistant Animal Care and Land Based

04/98



37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

### Placement Visitor within Early years/Playwork

04/116



19 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.

Salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

### Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of ICT/ Retail & Commercial/ Leisure & Tourism/ Catering/ Business & Law

08/66



37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time. Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

### Curriculum Support Assistant within Health, Public Services and Care

08/131



37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time.

Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

### Assistant Head Chef

RC01



37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

### Catering Assistant

CA6



16 hrs per week, 36 weeks term time.

Salary £11,801 pro rata per annum

### Night Cleaners

08/22



20 hrs per week, salary £6.13 per hour

### Full Time Cleaner

08/21



37 hrs per week, salary £6.13 per hour

For an application pack please visit [www.cant-col.ac.uk](http://www.cant-col.ac.uk) or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone)

quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 29th September 2008 at 12 noon

### Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme



Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

## Broad Oak



### SERVICE/AFTER SALES MANAGER at CANTERBURY

Following the continued growth of our after sales departments both in Ashford and Canterbury, and with an appetite to continue this trend, it has been decided that this will be best achieved by having an individual focus on each site.

We have a business need to achieve a high level of absorption along with above average level of customer retention including the 4+ market, therefore the right candidate will not only need to continue to financially deliver the high levels we are used to, but be in a position to develop, motivate and drive the team forward, whilst keeping a clear focus on offering an "outstanding customer experience" in line with the brand expectations and that of our customers.

If you feel you are the right calibre person for the job, email a copy of your CV in the first instance to:

ray.kemp@broadoak.bmw-net.co.uk

Alternatively send it to

Mr Ray Kemp, Dealer Principal  
Broad Oak BMW, Broad Oak Road, Canterbury CT2 7PX

No Agencies please      Closing date for applications 10/10/08



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### Visitor Services Assistant – 3 posts

#### Bedgebury

Post 1: £15,243 pa. Full time rostered over a seven day period and working alternate weekends and some evenings.

Post 2: £8,561 pa. Annualised hours with flexible working arrangement of about 1092 hours per year – average of 21 per week – rostered to suit the needs of the Visitors Services team. You may have some weeks off, alternatively work five days a week by prior arrangement. Evening and weekend work will be required.

All posts are fixed term for two years, which may be extended or made permanent.

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Kent Space, 6-8 Revere Road,

Lordswood, Chatham, ME5 8UD, on

Wednesday 8 October 2008, at 11.30

am for the purposes mentioned in

the Resolution.

The Resolutions at the Meeting of

Creditors may include a Resolution

specifying the terms on which the

Liquidator is to be remunerated.

The Meeting may receive information

about, or be asked to approve,

the winding up, the settlement of

affairs and convening of the Meeting.

Pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Act, a

list of names and addresses of the

Company's Creditors may be inspect-

ed, free of charge, at the offices of

Wardlaw & Holmes, 23 Pavilion Buildings,

Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1EE, before

the Meeting, a statement giving partic-

ulars of the Company's affairs at the

time when the notice was given and

the value and the value at which it is

assessed.

Proxies to be used at the Meeting

must be lodged at the registered office of the

Company, not later than 12.00 noon

on Friday 3 October 2008 together with an

up to date statement of account to

enable Creditors to vote.

The Resolutions to be taken at the

Meeting may include a Resolution

specifying the basis upon which the

liquidation of the Company's assets and

the Meeting may receive information

about, or be called upon to approve,

the costs of preparing the statement of

affairs and convening the meeting.

A list of names and addresses of the

above-named Creditors to be

inspected at the offices of Bright-

on-Taynor, 23 Pavilion Buildings,

Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1EE,

between the hours of 10.00 am and

4.00 pm on the two business days pre-

ceding the meeting of creditors.

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By Order of the Board

John Harvey, Director

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Creativity rewarded by awards short list

INTEGRATED marketing agency Adams Creative, which has offices in Maidstone and Ashford, has made the short list for the B2B Marketing Awards 2008.

It has been recognised for the "excellent" results it achieved for United Trust Bank in 2007.

Managing director Mike Adams said: "I'm thrilled that my team's hard work has been recognised by the judges."

The agency created a cost-effective lead generation campaign to promote United Trust Bank's bridging loan product, and generated results in a highly competitive marketplace.

The awards are owned and operated by B2B Marketing magazine.

Adams Creative made the short list in the 'Best limited budget campaign' category.

The winners will be announced at a gala dinner in London on November 6.

### What's the big idea?

KENT small businesses with big ideas to tackle climate change are being urged to compete for awards of up to £40,000 each through the Shell Springboard programme, which is in its fourth year.

Up to six awards of between £20,000 and £40,000 are on offer in each of three UK regions, including southern England and East Anglia.

Last year awards of £40,000 were made to five businesses across the UK.

The deadline for entries is November 7. Full details and an online application form can be found at [www.shellspringboard.org](http://www.shellspringboard.org).

### Making a difference

A HOST of Kent charities has been given £50 each by the Yorkshire Building Society, which has branches in Chatham, Canterbury and Bexleyheath.

The handouts came from cash raised in Together We Make A Difference Week, in June, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the society's Charitable Foundation.

Customers and the public were invited to call into any of Yorkshire's 135 branches and 65 agencies to nominate their favourite local charity to receive a cash boost.

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Don't miss this month's Business Update from Tony Patey. Search 'patey'

# Gateway to recovery



**BRIDGING THE GAP:** The northern part of Kent will benefit from the development and investment plans put in place as part of the Thames Gateway when the economy bounces back

■ BY TONY PATEY

yield properties and land with planning or potential."

But he cautioned: "In times such as this it is important to take care, particularly with over-rented properties, high-risk tenants and secondary properties that look cheap but have little long-term potential."

He emphasised that while the property market was extremely difficult and challenging, business was still being done: "It's harder to achieve deals and not so exciting, but there are plenty of projects to work on and we are all getting on with it."

Mr Pilcher said that while the boom times could not go on for ever, the hangover we are experiencing is proving to be a very big one, with no sign of a quick bounce back."

While the hope had been that north Kent would, as a Government-designated development area and with the 2012 Olympics looming, be insulated from the downturn, the reality was that "when things get bad they get bad across the board".

But the brighter news was that north Kent and the Thames Gateway was, he hoped, much better placed for when the

market starts to recover.

He was guest speaker at a Property and Construction Club breakfast meeting, the fourth such get-together organised by law firm Thomson Snell and Passmore and Thames Gateway Property and Construction.

It was attended by more than 60 delegates from the region.

Looking at the market over the last 18 months, he said commercial investment sales volumes were down 50 per cent, commercial values were down 10 to 20 per cent. Bluewater alone had recently been down-valued 12 per cent – and occupier demand had weakened. The residential property market was in an even bleaker state, with sales values down 50 per cent overall but probably nearer 70 per cent in recent months. About 4,000 estate agents had already lost their jobs and Halifax, the country's leading agent, had shut 53 branches.

He said: "Certainly on the commercial side, occupiers are going to continue to be very important over the coming months and landlords are likely to cling to them, offering incentives and lower rents."

Mr Pilcher thought Government moves to underpin parts of the property market would probably not be enough to hasten recovery.

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# Green brace helps Medway to derby victory



AT THE DOUBLE: Simon Green running in the first of his two tries for Medway

## Super Lords storm to FA Vase victory

LORDSWOOD put their league troubles behind them as they marched into the FA Vase first-round proper.

The Lords have found it tough this season having failed to record a point which has left them bottom of the Kent League Premier Division.

However, on Saturday, Lordswood put in a fantastic performance to overcome Sussex side Ringmer 4-0.

The Medway side raced into a two-goal lead thanks to a brace from Bridges.

Two goals in the last six minutes of the second half through Osborne and Dodsworth secured the win and confirmed Lordswood's place in the first-round proper.

### VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Andy Hessianhaler was among a team of legends in a charity match at Bromley

## Lordswood's poor start continues

A 28-0 defeat to Old Elthamians means Lordswood RFC are yet to record a point so far this season.

The Lords were convincingly beaten in Eltham and is not the best start to the season for the Medway club.

Lordswood are now second from bottom in London South East 3 after their second defeat in a row and are yet to score a point in the league this season, following last weekend's 23-0 defeat at home to Sevenoaks.

The Medway-based side will be looking to put some points on the board this weekend when they travel to play seventh-placed Eastbourne.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT [glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk)



### Sittingbourne 15

### Medway 25

MEDWAY put last week's defeat behind them as they put in a strong performance in the Kent derby with Sittingbourne.

The first half saw the visitors dominate and good ball from the line-out, combined with strong powerful running from Colin Chapman and Liam Woobley provided Medway's wide players with scoring opportunities, which they clinically took.

Simon Green (two) and Ben Wadsworth scored tries in the first 35 minutes and with Glen Wadsworth

### RUGBY

adding two conversions, Medway were in control. Despite playing with the wind, Sittingbourne found themselves behind by 19-3. Sittingbourne's score came from a Scott Truss penalty.

The second half was a very different affair. The Sittingbourne pack from the off totally dominated the scrummage and Medway were on the back foot. The home side took every opportunity to drive the visitors back.

Truss marshalled his forwards and strong running from Scott McNamara saw him crash over for a well-deserved try. Truss added the conversion to make the score 19-10.

In one of the visitor's few visits to the Sittingbourne half, Glen Wadsworth kicked a penalty to make it 22-10.

Sittingbourne came straight back and again the scrummage platform created the opportunity for winger Alex Politovich to score in the corner. The try was unconverted and Sittingbourne were only a single score away.

Almost from the kick-off, Bourne's indiscipline at the ruck cost them another penalty which Wadsworth kicked to make the score 25-15.

The last 20 minutes were tense as Sittingbourne threw everything they could at Medway but couldn't find a way past their strong defence.

Medway return to action on Saturday when they host Erith at Priestfields.

# Ten-man Gills unlucky to not salvage a draw

### FOOTBALL

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

## Aldershot Town 2 Gillingham 1

A LATE Aldershot winner denied the Gills a point as they battled for 77 minutes with ten men.

Gillingham boss Mark Stimson surprisingly made only two changes to the side that was thrashed 7-0 at Shrewsbury last weekend, with Mark Bentley replacing the injured Dennis Oli and skipper Andrew Crofts returning to partner Curtis Weston.

Both sides started brightly in glorious sunshine at the Recreation Ground with chances coming at either end. The first fell to the Gills when John Nutter's free kick found Crofts, who headed narrowly over. Moments later Simon Royce made the game's first save, diving high to his right to push out Ben Harding's long-range strike.

Gillingham were reduced to ten men in the 13th minute when striker Mark McCammon received a red card for what looked like a fairly routine challenge.

The forward went up for the ball with the Aldershot goalkeeper, but the referee must have seen something in it as he brandished a straight red card.

The home side immediately looked to press their advantage and were unlucky not to break the deadlock from a 17th-minute corner which Chris Blackburn headed narrowly wide at the far post.

The Gills refused to lie down though and carved out a good chance of their own, but Charlie Daniels' close range snap shot was well saved.

Moments later Bentley went even closer as his header came back off the foot of the post.

The home side came back strongly, forcing Simon King into two excellent blocks to deny long-range shots, before the lively John Grant collected a loose ball inside the area and struck the near post with Royce beaten.

The home side maintained their pressure in the second half with John Grant forcing a good save from Royce in the 52nd minute.

With the Gills fighting a desperate rear-guard action, chances were few and far between for the visitors although Simeon Jackson was able to shake off his marker and force a save on 68 minutes.

The home side finally broke the deadlock in



UNLUCKY: Mark McCammon seemed unlucky to be shown a red card after his challenge with Aldershot's goalkeeper

the 75th minute when Kirk Hudson collected the ball on the edge of the area and fired into the far corner to put Aldershot in front.

Their lead was short lived as Simeon Jackson levelled the scores within minutes. The Canada under-20 striker had a simple tap in after Bentley flicked on Nutter's corner.

Just as it seemed the Gills had gained a hard-fought point, Aldershot grabbed an 86th-minute winner. A cruel deflection off Simon King allowed Scott Davies to score from the edge of the area and seal the win for the Hampshire side.

• The Gills are next in action at home to Port Vale. Visit [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk) for live match updates.

Picture KEITH SLATER

# Chats stop rot after poor start to season

## FOOTBALL

■ BY YOURMEDWAY REPORTER

### Enfield Town 1 Chatham Town 3

CHATHAM Town recorded their first win in five games with a well-earned win away at Enfield Town.

The Chats had made a poor start to Ryman One North having failed to register a point after their opening day win at home to Ilford.

However, an accomplished display at Enfield at the weekend has given manager Steve Binks and his side renewed optimism.

Chatham took a sixth-minute lead through Dave Botterill who scored on his 21st birthday.

In attempting to save that shot, the Enfield goalkeeper Jason Willis collided with another player and ended up breaking his hand. With no goalkeeper on the bench, defender Paul Campbell was forced to put on the green jersey for the home side.

The hosts equalised on the half hour through a Simon Ticker header.

The game was end-to-end before Town wrapped up the points thanks to two second-half strikes from Steve Hafner and Brad Potter.

The Chats boss was delighted his side had got back to winning ways, but more importantly to ensure Town do not get cut adrift in the bottom half of Ryman North.

He said: "It is important that we start to pick up results. We have not been playing bad and on a couple occasions we have been the better side and lost. We have had a tough set of fixtures to begin the season but we just need to be finding the back of the net more often."

Binks believes his team are beginning to find their feet in the division after having previously played the majority of their football in the Ryman South.

He said: "The players heads are not down and they are not lacking confidence but we are playing some of the best teams in the league in the next few games. In these games the players seem to rise to the occasion.

"Losing three or four players to serious injuries has not helped us and our new signing



THREE POINTS: Chatham (in blue) beat Enfield Town at the weekend to put an end to a run of poor results

Simon Austin is out for a couple of weeks with an injury. I think once he returns from injury he could be the missing link for us as he has plenty of experience playing in higher leagues.

"It does allow me to play Steve Hafner and

Darren Smith together which I have not been able to do for a while and I have every confidence they can play well."

• The Chats were in action at home to East Thurrock United last night. For a match report and reaction from Binks, visit [www.yourmedway.co.uk](http://www.yourmedway.co.uk).

# Mos fight back against Hornets



EVEN: Dynamos came from behind to clinch a draw at Bracknell

## ICE HOCKEY

### Bracknell Hornets 3 Invicta Dynamos 3

THE Invicta Dynamos recovered from going behind in the first minute to earn a point from their first away game of the season.

The Hornets got themselves on the board early when Daniel Davies picked out Craig Tribe, who made no mistake firing past Glen Jackson.

Martin Melichercik flew over the blue line just after Galazzi was released from the box, the Hornet knocked Melichercik flat but the Mos player was quickly up and the puck found him at the back post seconds later to tie things up after six minutes.

Glen Jackson was the star for the Mos as the period progressed, stopping Gareth O'Flaherty when he was sent through alone by Graham Bellamy before denying Steve Cameron and Craig Tribe. The Mos were given a chance with

a 50 second five-on-three to end the period when Cameron and Bellamy were both given penalties but the powerplay never clicked.

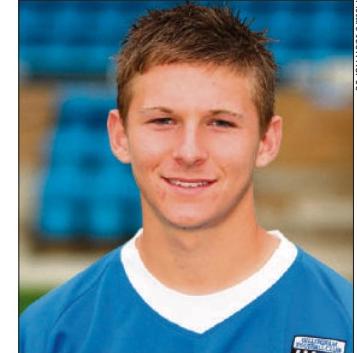
Tribe went close as did Galazzi before a slip by Jack Tarczynski let in Daniel Davies who found Ben Duggan for a simple tap in at after 24 minutes.

Grant Baxter was called for interference after 29 minutes and the Hornets used the powerplay to good effect with Tony Barclay banging in a loose puck at the back post.

Jackson continued his heroics in a four-minute powerplay for Bracknell, denying Tribe twice and Duggan to keep the gap at two. The Mo's pulled one back in the 37th minute, AJ Smith with a strong skate on the right, dropping the puck into the stride of Anthony Leone who fired past Adam Marashi.

In the third period Melichercik continued to impress, a neat one two with Phil Manby gave him a clean shot in the slot and he smashed it past Marashi before he had time to react, setting up a tense final ten minutes.

Melichercik went close to a hat trick but his turnaround attempt in the slot was stopped.



PICTURE: BORIS KUPROO  
IN THE RECKONING: Andy Pugh has played his way into Gills boss Mark Stimson's plans

## Triallists make Priestfield exit

## FOOTBALL

GILLINGHAM'S search for a striker continues as triallists Trevor Benjamin, Marcus Haber and Roland Benedict were released last week.

Benjamin failed to impress manager Mark Stimson and earn a contract despite scoring for Gillingham's reserves in a 2-1 defeat against Southampton.

He did not feature in the reserves 3-2 victory at Crystal Palace last week and remains a free agent.

Stimson has also decided against pursuing interest in triallist's Haber and American Benedict.

Haber, a 23-year-old Canadian international, failed to impress Stimson in his trial and made his only appearance in the defeat against Southampton. The striker was an unused substitute in Wednesday's 3-2 win against Crystal Palace.

However, last Thursday former Watford winger Albert Jarrett signed a one-month loan deal at Priestfield with a view to a possible extension.

The 23-year-old Sierra Leone international has impressed Stimson in the last two reserve outings. He began his career as a trainee at Arsenal before going on to feature for Wimbledon, Watford and Brighton.

In the opposite direction, defender Sean Clohessy has moved to Blue Square Premier League side Salisbury City on a one-month deal following a successful trial.

Young strikers Andy Pugh and Luis Cumbers grabbed the goals in the reserves 3-2 win at Crystal Palace this week, which has given Stimson cause for optimism.

He said: "The reserves put in a great performance. Pugh and Cumbers did really well. Pugh has come back from loan and I said I want to look at him in the reserves. He has put himself into the reckoning."

"There was a triallist out there but a number of 16-year-olds played and it was a pleasure to watch.

"What youngsters like Jack Payne and Connor Essam showed was immense.

"There are three or four players who can only get better because of their age."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson talks about new loan signing Albert Jarrett

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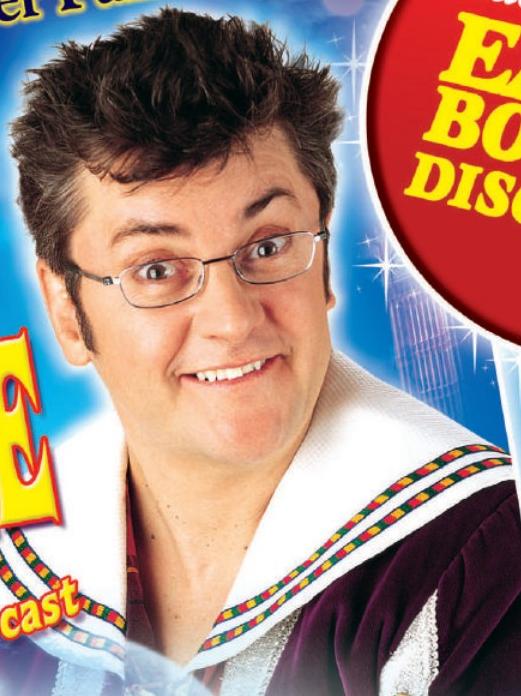
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